

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY (NCVS)

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

1999–Present

Survey Description

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), first administered in 1973, is the nation's primary source of annual level and change estimates on criminal victimization and information on the nature of those incidents. The NCVS is a self-report survey in which interviewees are asked about the number and characteristics of victimizations they experienced during the prior 6 months.

Survey Sample Population

The NCVS is administered to noninstitutionalized persons ages 12 and older from a nationally representative sample of households in the United States. The sample includes persons living in group quarters, such as dormitories, rooming houses, and religious group dwellings, and excludes persons living in military barracks and institutional settings, such as correctional or hospital facilities, and persons who are homeless. Each year, data are obtained from a nationally representative sample of about 135,000 households composed of nearly 225,000 individuals.

Survey Mode

The NCVS occurs annually using a mixed-mode of computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI) and computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI). All first interviews are conducted in person; subsequent interviews are conducted in person or by telephone. Once selected, households remain in the sample for three years; eligible persons in these households are interviewed every six months in person or over the telephone, for a total of seven interviews. New households rotate into the sample on an ongoing basis to replace outgoing households.

SGM-Related Survey Questions

Control Card

The questions below are asked of NCVS respondents.

Category	Question	Question History
Sexual Identity	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.
Sexual Attraction	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.
Sexual Behavior	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.
Gender Identity	Is [household member name] male or female? 1. Male 2. Female	In the 2012–2015 screener, the question was asked as follows: (19) Is ____ 1. Male 2. Female This question is asked of the respondent about a person who lives with them.
Household Relationships	What is [household member name]’s relationship to [reference person]? 11. Husband 12. Wife 13. Son 14. Daughter 15. Father 16. Mother 17. Brother 18. Sister 19. Other Relative 20. Non-Relative	In the 2012–2015 control card, the question was asked as follows: (14) What is ____’s relationship to [reference person]? 01. Husband 02. Wife 03. Son 04. Daughter 05. Father 06. mother 07. Brother 08. Sister 09. Other relative 10. Nonrelative 11. Reference Person
	[Are/Is] [you/household member name] now married, widowed, divorced, separated or [have/has] [you/he/she] never been married? 1. Married 2. Widowed 3. Divorced 4. Separated 5. Never married	In the 2012–2015, control card the question was asked as follows: (18) Is ____now ____? 1. Married 2. Widowed 3. Divorced 4. Separated OR 5. Never Married

Basic Screen Questionnaire

The questions below are asked of NCVS respondents.

Category	Question	Question History
Sexual Identity	(83) Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself? 1. Gay 2. Straight, that is, not gay 3. Bisexual 4. Something else 5. I don't know the answer 6. Refused	This question was included in the 2015 and 2016 versions of the survey. This question is asked of male respondents who are age 16 or older.
	(84) Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself? 1. Gay 2. Straight, that is, not gay 3. Bisexual 4. Something else 5. I don't know the answer 6. Refused	This question was included in the 2015 and 2016 versions of the survey. This question is asked of female respondents who are age 16 or older.
Sexual Attraction	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.
Sexual Behavior	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.
Gender Identity	(85) What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? 1. Male 2. Female 3. Refused 4. Don't Know	This question was added to the 2016 version of the survey.
	(86) Do you currently describe yourself as male, female or transgender? 1. Male 2. Female 3. Transgender 4. None of these	This question was added to the 2016 version of the survey.
Household Relationships	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.

School Crime Supplement

The questions below are asked of NCVS respondents.

Category	Question	Question History
Sexual Identity	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.
Sexual Attraction	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.
Sexual Behavior	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.
Gender Identity	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.
Household Relationships	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.
Additional SGM Questions	<p>(28) When you were bullied in school this year, did you ever think it was related to</p> <p>a. YOUR race?</p> <p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>b. YOUR religion?</p> <p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>c. Your ethnic background or national origin - for example, people of Hispanic origin?</p> <p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>d. Any disability you may have – such as physical, mental, or developmental disabilities?</p> <p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>e. YOUR gender?</p> <p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>f. YOUR sexual orientation - by this we mean gay, lesbian, bisexual, or straight?</p> <p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>g. YOUR physical appearance?</p> <p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. No</p>	<p>This question was added to the 2016 version of the school crime supplement.</p>

Category	Question	Question History
	<p>(29) During this school year, has anyone called you an insulting or bad name at school having to do with your race, religion, ethnic background or national origin, disability, gender, or sexual orientation? We call these hate-related words.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No 	<p>This is the current version of the question. In 2013, 2009, 2001 the question was labeled as question 21a.</p> <p>The following question was used in 2001: (21a) During the last 6 months, has anyone called you a derogatory or bad name at school having to do with your race, religion, ethnic background or national origin, disability, gender, or sexual orientation? We call these hate-related words.</p> <p>The following question was used in 1999: (20) Besides anything that happened in the incidents you just told me about), during the last 6 months, has anyone called you a derogatory or bad name at school having to do with race, religion, Hispanic origin, disability, gender, or sexual orientation? We call these hate-related words.</p>
	<p>(30) Were any of the hate-related words related to ...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Your race <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't Know b. Your religion? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't Know c. Your ethnic background or national origin- for example, people of Hispanic origin? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't Know d. Any disability you may have – such as physical, mental, or developmental disabilities? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't Know e. Your gender? f. Your sexual orientation – by this we mean gay, lesbian, bisexual or straight? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't Know 	<p>This is the current version of the question. 2013, 2009, 2001 the question was labeled as question 21b.</p>

Response Rates

In 2016, about 134,690 households and 224,520 persons age 12 or older were interviewed for the NCVS. Each household was interviewed twice during the year. The response rate was 78% for households and 84% for eligible persons. Victimitizations that occurred outside the U.S. were excluded from these reports. In 2016, less than 1% of the unweighted victimizations occurred outside the U.S. and were excluded from analyses.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

Organizations Involved

This survey is conducted by the BJS of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Survey Links

Questionnaires

Find the questionnaires on the main website for the NCVS under “Questionnaires,” organized by year:

- Identity Theft Supplement (ITS).
- NCVS Basic Screen Questionnaire.
- NCVS Control Card.
- NCVS Crime Incident Report.
- NCVS for Spanish-speaking respondents.
- School Crime Supplement (SCS).
- Supplemental Victimization Survey (SVS).

Find the questionnaires at the link below: <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=245#Questionnaires>

Data

Data for the NCVS can be found using the “variables” and “series” tabs in the link below. [https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NACJD/search/studies?q=&SERIESFULL_FACET_Q=95%7CNational%20Crime%20Victimization%20Survey%20\(NCVS\)%20Series](https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NACJD/search/studies?q=&SERIESFULL_FACET_Q=95%7CNational%20Crime%20Victimization%20Survey%20(NCVS)%20Series)

Data are organized by the Personal Victimization and Household Victimization variables and by data archive for years 1993–2016, 2007–2016, and 2012–2016. <https://www.bjs.gov/developer/ncvs/index.cfm>

General Information

All information on the NCVS can be found on BJS' NCVS website: <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=245>

References

Bureau of Justice Statistics. U.S. Department of Justice. Testing Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Questions for the National Crime Victimization Survey. (2013). <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=912>

Federal Interagency Working Group on Improving Measurement of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Federal Surveys. Current Measures of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Federal Surveys. (2016). <https://fcsmlsites.usa.gov/reports/interagency-reports/>

