

NATIONAL INTIMATE PARTNER AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVEY (NISVS)

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

2010–Present

Survey Description

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) is an ongoing survey that collects the most current and comprehensive national- and state-level data on intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and stalking victimization among adult women and men in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control developed NISVS with the help of experts and stakeholders from various organizations and representatives from other federal agencies, to collect data on these public health problems and enhance violence prevention efforts. The core sections include respondent characteristics, health, victimization, stalking, sexual violence (parts 1 and 2), psychological aggression, physical violence, intimate partner violence follow-up, and normative behaviors.

Survey Sample Population

The target population for NISVS is noninstitutionalized English- and/or Spanish-speaking U.S. female and male adults ages 18 and older. The survey is conducted in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The sample design is a dual-frame random digit dialing (RDD) sample, with samples drawn from landline and cellular phone frames. For landline numbers, NISVS employs a list-assisted sampling approach to randomly select telephone numbers from the pool of available numbers; all active cellular numbers have a chance to be randomly selected.

To obtain both national- and state-level estimates, NISVS uses a disproportionate sampling approach. A sample design optimized for national estimates would use proportionate allocation across states (resulting in a sample size in each state that is proportionate to the state's adult population); a design optimized for providing stable state-level estimates might allocate the sample approximately equally across states. To accommodate these competing objectives, NISVS samples are stratified by state, balancing between stable state-level estimates and weight variation for the national estimates due to oversampling of smaller states.

Survey Mode

The mode for this survey is computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI). Before data collection, prenotification letters are sent to all potential landline respondents for whom a telephone number and an address can be matched. To increase participation, NISVS is administered as a two-phase survey. In Phase 1, the main data collection phase, respondents are offered a monetary incentive to participate in the survey. A random subsample of nonrespondents from Phase 1 are selected for Phase 2, which includes a higher monetary incentive to encourage further participation. All respondents are asked to complete both screener and core questionnaires.

SGM-Related Survey Questions

Screener

The questions below are asked of all NISVS 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	(CF15) I'd like to confirm your gender; would you currently describe yourself as... 1. Male 2. Female 3. Or Transgender [GO TO CF16] -1 Don't Know -2 Refused	This is the current version of the question, and it has been used from 2016 to 2018. In 2010 and 2011, the question wording was "Are you male or female?" In 2012, 2013, and 2014, the question wording was "Please tell me your gender." In 2015, the question wording was "I am required to verify your gender; would you identify yourself as..." "Transgendered" was used as an answer option instead of "Transgender" from 2010 to 2015.
	(CF16) Would you prefer to be referred to as male or female? 1. Male 2. Female -1 Don't Know -2 Refused -3 Legit Skip	This is the only version of the question that has been used. In 2013, however, this question was not asked.
Household Relationships	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.

Survey

The questions below are asked of all NISVS respondents who meet screening requirements.

Category	Question	Question History
Sexual Identity	(A6) Do you think of yourself as... 1. Lesbian or Gay 2. Straight, that is, not gay 3. Bisexual -2 Refused	<p>This is the current version of the question found under “Respondent Characteristics” in the survey, and it has been used since 2016.</p> <p>The previously asked questions from 2013 to 2015 in the “Respondent Characteristics” section were:</p> <p>(RC4A) Do you think of yourself as... 1. Lesbian or gay 2. Straight, that is, not gay 3. Bisexual 4. Something else [GO TO RC4AO] 98 (VOL) DK 99 (VOL) RF</p> <p>(RC4AO) By something else, do you mean that... 1. You are not straight, but identify with another label such as queer, trisexual, omnisexual or pan-sexual 2. You are transgender or transsexual 3. You have not or are in the process of figuring out your sexuality 4. You do not think of yourself as having a sexuality 5. You personally reject all labels of yourself 6. You made a mistake and did not mean to pick this answer 7. You mean something else</p> <p>The previously asked question from 2010 to 2012 in the “Intimate Partner” section was:</p> <p>(IP1a) Do you consider yourself to be... 1. Heterosexual or straight 2. Gay or lesbian 3. Bisexual 4. Transgendered -1 Don't Know -2 Refused</p>

Category	Question	Question History
Sexual Attraction	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.
Sexual Behavior	(IP1) During your lifetime, have you had sex with only men, only women, or both men and women? 1. Only men 2. Only women 3. Both men and women 4. Other (specify (blank line) specify _____) 5. Neither -1 Don't Know -2 Refused	This question was asked from 2010 to 2013.
	(IP4) Are you currently romantically or sexually involved with someone like a boyfriend or girlfriend? This would include someone you are seeing or dating. 1. Yes [GO TO IP5] 2. No -1 Don't Know -2 Refused	This question was asked from 2010 to 2012.
	(IP5) {if question IP4 = 1 then} Is the person you are romantically or sexually involved with a man or a woman? 1. Male 2. Female -1 Don't know -2 Refused	This question was asked from 2010 to 2012.
Gender Identity	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.

Category	Question	Question History
Household Relationships	<p>(A5) Are you currently married, divorced, separated, widowed, not married but living with a partner, or have you never been married?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Married 2. Divorced 3. Separated 4. Widowed 5. Not Married But Living With A Partner 6. Never Married 7. Something Else (Specify) [GO TO A5SPEC] <p>-1 Don't Know 02 Refused</p> <p>(A5SPEC) Specify "something else" [Maximum Of 25 Characters]</p> <p>-3 Legit Skip -1 Don't Know -2 Refused</p>	<p>This is the current version of the question found under "Respondent Characteristics," and it has been used since 2016. The following question was asked from 2013 to 2015:</p> <p>(IP2) Are you currently married, divorced, separated, widowed, have you never been married, or not married but living with a partner?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Married 2. Divorced 3. Separated 4. Widowed 5. Never married 6. Not married but living with partner: of opposite sex 7. Not married but living with partner: of same sex 8. (Vol) Other (Specify) _____ [Max 25 Characters] <p>97 (Vol) Don't Know 99 (Vol) Refused</p> <p>The following question was asked from 2010 to 2012:</p> <p>(IP2) Are you currently married, divorced, separated, widowed, or have you have been married?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Married [GO TO IP5] 2. Divorced [GO TO IP3] 3. Separated [GO TO IP3] 4. Widowed [GO TO IP3] 5. Never married [GO TO IP3] 6. Other (specify (blank line)specify_____) <p>[GO TO IP3]</p> <p>-1 Don't Know [GO TO IP3] -2 Refused [GO TO IP3]</p> <p>Note: This question was asked from 2010 to 2012.</p>

Category	Question	Question History
	(IP3) Are you currently living with a man or a woman as a couple at least part of the time? By couple I mean romantically or sexually involved, not just roommates. 1. Yes [GO TO IP5] 2. No -1 Don't Know -2 Refused	This question was asked from 2010 to 2012.
	(IP5) {if question IP2 = 1 then} Is your spouse male or female? 1. Male 2. Female -1 Don't Know -2 Refused	This question was asked from 2010 to 2012.
	(IP5) {if question IP3 = 1 then} Is the person you are living with as a couple male or female? 1. Male 2. Female -1 Don't Know -2 Refused	This question was asked from 2010 to 2012.

Response Rates

The most recent available response rates are from 2015. In 2015, 10,081 completed interviews were conducted (5,758 women and 4,323 men). Approximately 32% of the interviews were conducted by landline and 68% were conducted by cellular phone. The overall weighted response rate for 2015 was 26.4%. The weighted cooperate rate, which reflects the proportion of persons contacted who agreed to participate in the interview and who were determined to be eligible, was 89.6%.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

In addition to the general population sample, samples were drawn from two additional populations in 2010: (1) a separate targeted sample of persons who were American Indian or Alaska Native, and (2) a random sample of female active-duty military and female spouses of active-duty military.

Organizations Involved

NISVS is conducted by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control of the CDC with collaboration and support from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Department of Defense (DoD) Family Advocacy Program. The NISVS project is funded by CDC, the DoD, and the NIJ.

Survey Links

Questionnaires

Access the 2010 questionnaire under the “Data & Documentation” tab by clicking the download button and “DS1 General Population Raw Data.” The questionnaire is in the zipped folder.

<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NACJD/studies/34305?archive=NACJD&q=nisvs&permit%255B0%255D=AVAILABLE&x=0&y=0>

All other versions of the NISVS data collection instruments are available in the Reginfo.gov site below.

<https://www.reginfo.gov/public/Forward?SearchTarget=PRA&textfield=0920-0822>

Data

Raw data on the general population sample are in a restricted access database with specific requirements for obtaining them. Click the “Access Restricted Data” tab in the link below and follow the listed instructions to access the data.

<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NACJD/studies/34305?archive=NACJD&q=nisvs&permit%255B0%255D=AVAILABLE&x=0&y=0>

Separate from the national sample, the NISVS was also conducted with a population of self-identified American Indians and Alaska Natives. Another survey was conducted with female active-duty military and female spouses of active-duty military, but data are not currently available. To access the American Indian/Alaska native sample data and results, click the “Access Restricted Data” tab in the link below and follow instructions.

<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NACJD/studies/36140/version/1>

From the CDC website, find full reports containing national and state victimization estimates for intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and stalking. Under “NISVS Summary Reports” and “NISVS Special Reports,” click “Related Materials.” <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/index.html>

General Information

All information on the NISVS can be found on the CDC’s NISVS website, which includes NISVS Summary Reports, Special Reports, Infographics, and Fact Sheets.

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/index.html>

Access frequently asked questions (FAQ) at <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/FAQ.html>

References

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research. Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): General Population Survey Raw Data, 2010 (ICPSR 34305). (2016).

<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/34305#>

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. U.S. General Services Administration. Reginfo.gov.

<https://www.reginfo.gov/public/Forward?SearchTarget=PRA&textfield=0920-0822>