

NATIONAL SURVEY OF FAMILY GROWTH (NSFG)

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

2002–Present

Survey Description

The National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) gathers information on family life, marriage and divorce, pregnancy, infertility, use of contraception, and men's and women's health. Since 1973, survey results have been used by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and others to plan health services and health education programs, and to conduct statistical studies of families, fertility, and health. The NSFG is projected to continue survey administration through 2019.

Survey Sample Population

The NSFG was designed to be representative of women 15–44 years of age in the civilian, noninstitutionalized population of the United States (household population). Changes to the NSFG included adding an independent sample of men (2002) and expanding the age range to 15–49 (2015), which makes the survey representative of men and women 15–49 years of age living in households in the U.S. For the 2013–2015 NSFG, the total sample size was 10,205 participants. For each interviewing year (2015–2019; every 12 months, beginning mid-September), it is expected that about 5,000 interviews will be completed.

Survey Mode

The NSFG is conducted through in-person interviews, with a portion of the more sensitive questions answered privately by self-administration. The first six surveys were conducted as periodic cycles by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) in 1973, 1976, 1982, 1988, 1995, and 2002. Starting in 2006, the NSFG shifted from periodic survey cycles to continuous interviewing. Interviews are conducted in person by female interviewers who are hired and managed by the current NSFG contractor, the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research.

The survey is available in two questionnaire formats: computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI)-Lite and CAPI Reference Questionnaire (CRQ) format. Both formats represent the basic content and routing of the full NSFG interviews, including the CAPI administered by interviewers and the audio computer-assisted self-interview (ACASI) that respondents complete on their own. Each format offers users a different level of detail and perspective on how the interview is conducted. There are male and female versions of each questionnaire. SGM-related questions are not optional and have their own section in each questionnaire.

SGM-Related Survey Questions

The questions below are asked of all NSFG respondents.

Category	Question	Question History
Sexual Identity	(ORIENT) (JH-3) Do you think of yourself as... Heterosexual or straight Homosexual [If R is female then Lesbian] or Gay Or bisexual	<p>The current question was used from 2013–2015.</p> <p>The following question was used in 2002:</p> <p>(ORIENT JH-3) Do you think of yourself as ... Heterosexual Homosexual Bisexual Or something else?</p> <p>The following question was used from 2006–2010:</p> <p>(ORIENT) Do you think of yourself as... Heterosexual or straight Homosexual, gay, or lesbian Bisexual Or something else</p> <p>(SP_ORIENT) When you say “something else,” what do you mean? Open ended</p>
Sexual Attraction	(ATTRACT) People are different in their sexual attraction to other people. Which best describes your feelings? Are you... [If R is male] Only attracted to females Mostly attracted to females Equally attracted to females and males Mostly attracted to males Only attracted to males Not sure [If R is female] Only attracted to males Mostly attracted to males Equally attracted to males and females Mostly attracted to females Only attracted to females Not sure	<p>This is the only version of the question that has been used.</p>

Category	Question	Question History
	(MFLASTP) The very last time you had any type of sex -- that is vaginal intercourse or anal sex or oral sex -- was that last sexual partner male or female? Male Female	This is the only version of the question that has been used. This question is under the Sexual Attraction, Orientation, & Experience with STDs section.
Sexual Behavior	NSFG asks many questions related to a variety of sexual behaviors. For more information on those questions, please visit: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg/nsfg_2013_2015_questionnaires.htm#female	Not applicable.
Gender Identity	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.
Household Relationships	(AB-1) Now I'd like to ask about marital status and living together. Please look at Card 1. What is your current marital or cohabiting status? ENTER [2] if R is living together with a partner of the opposite sex to whom she is not married, even if she is also widowed, divorced, separated, or never-married If R volunteers being in a same-sex marriage or living with a same-sex partner, then enter this information in an [F2] comment and probe for R's marital or cohabitation status with respect to opposite sex spouses or cohabiting partners. If R has not had an opposite sex marriage and is not currently cohabiting with an opposite sex partner, enter [6]. Married to a person of the opposite sex ...1 Not married but living together with a partner of the opposite sex ...2 Widowed ...3 Divorced or annulled ...4 Separated, because you and your spouse are not getting along ...5 Never been married ...6	The current question was used from 2013–2015. Both the female and male versions of the survey ask the same question. The following information was added in the 2011– 2013 version of the survey. “and probe for R's marital or cohabitation status with respect to opposite sex spouses or cohabiting partners. If R has not had an opposite sex marriage and is not currently cohabiting with an opposite sex partner, enter [6].”

Category	Question	Question History
	<p>Respondent answers the question for each person who lives in the household.</p> <p>(AD-5) Please look at Card (3/4). What is (Name[X])’s relationship to you?</p> <p>NOTE: If R says “child”, PROBE for whether she means biological child or something else. If R says ‘foster sister’ or ‘foster brother’, enter [23], ‘Other nonrelative’</p> <p>If Household Member is Male, Display:</p> <p>Husband ...1 Male partner ...2 Biological son ...3 Stepson (son of spouse) ...4 Adopted son ...5 Legal ward ...6 Foster child ...7 Partner’s son ...8 Grandson ...9 Nephew ...10 Biological father ...11 Step-father (husband of mother) ...12 Adoptive father ...13 Legal guardian ...14 Foster parent ...15 Your parent’s male partner ...16 Grandfather ...17 Uncle ...18 Brother ...19 Other male relative ...20 Roommate (male) ...21 Tenant or boarder (male) ...22 Other male relative ...23</p> <p>If Household Member is Female, Display:</p> <p>Wife ...1 Female partner ...2 Biological daughter ...3 Step-daughter (daughter of spouse) ...4 Adopted daughter ...5 Legal ward ...6 Foster child ...7 Partner’s daughter ...8 Granddaughter ...9 Niece ...10 Biological mother ...11</p>	<p>These questions were not asked in 2002 (Cycle 6) but have been used from 2006–2015.</p>

Response Rates

The overall response rate for the 2013–2015 period was 69.3%; 71.2% for women and 67.1% for men. The response rate for male teenagers 15–19 was 71.2% and was 70.7% for female teenagers.

Access response rates on the main NSFG website under “Questionnaires, Datasets, and Related Documentation.” In the “User’s Guide” section, under “Codebooks and Documentation,” select “Part 1 General Information for Users.” The most recent response rate results can be access through the link below: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg/nsfg_2013_2015_puf.htm

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

Organizations Involved

The NSFG is conducted by the CDC’s NCHS, with the support and assistance of several other organizations and individuals. The NSFG is jointly planned and funded by the following programs and agencies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:

- Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.
- Office of Population Affairs.
- NCHS, CDC.
- Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, CDC.
- Division of Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention, CDC.
- Division of Reproductive Health, CDC.
- Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, CDC.
- Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, CDC.
- Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children and Families (ACF).
- Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, ACF.

Survey Links

Questionnaires

Access survey questionnaires on the main NSFG website, organized by collection year. Use the following link to access the most recent questionnaires: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg/nsfg_questionnaires.htm

Data

Access selected survey data on the main NSFG website, organized by collection year. Use the following link to access the most recent survey data: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg/nsfg_2011_2015_puf.htm

General Information

General information on the NSFG can be found on CDC’s NSFG website: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg/index.htm>

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. 2013–2015 National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG): Sample Design Documentation. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nsfg/NSFG_2013-2015_Summary_Design_Data_Collection.pdf