

NATIONAL SURVEY ON DRUG USE AND HEALTH (NSDUH)

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

2015–Present

Survey Description

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) is an annual nationwide survey that provides national- and state-level data on the use of tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs (including nonmedical use of prescription drugs), and mental health in the United States.

The primary objectives of NSDUH are to provide accurate data on the level and patterns of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal substance use and abuse; track trends in the use of alcohol, tobacco, and various types of drugs; assess the consequences of substance use and abuse; and identify groups at high risk for substance abuse.

Survey Sample Population

Every year, approximately 70,000 individuals are randomly selected from all over the U.S. and asked to participate. NSDUH collects information from residents of households and noninstitutionalized group quarters (e.g., shelters, rooming houses, dormitories) and from civilians ages 12 and over living on military bases. The survey excludes homeless persons who do not use shelters, military personnel on active duty, and residents of institutional group quarters such as jails and hospitals. Sexual orientation and identity questions are asked only of respondents ages 18 and older.

Survey Mode

Each year, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) selects a survey research organization to administer NSDUH. A professional interviewer visits each selected person to administer the interview using a laptop computer.

Most of the survey questions are administered with audio computer assisted self-interview (ACASI) software, to provide the respondent with a highly private and confidential mode for responding to questions about illicit drug use and other sensitive behaviors. Less-sensitive items are administered by interviewers using computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI) software.

SGM-Related Survey Questions

Screeners

The questions below are asked of NSDUH respondents.

Category	Question	Question History
Sexual Identity	Are you/Is this person male or female? Male Female Refused	This is the current version of the question.
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	How is this person related to the householder? Husband Wife Son (includes step, foster, or adoptive) Daughter (includes step, foster or adoptive) Brother (includes half, step, foster, or adoptive) Sister (includes step, foster or adoptive) Son-in-law/Daughter-in-law Parent-in-law Aunt/Uncle Nephew/Niece Grandparent Grandchild Cousin Ex-Spouse Unmarried Partner Housemate or Roommate Tenant/Boarder/Exch Student Other relative Other Non-relative Relationship Unspecified	This is the current version of the question.
	(Are you/Is this person) male or female? Male Female Refused	This is the current version of the question.

Survey

The questions below are asked of NSDUH respondents.

Category	Question	Question History
Sexual Identity	(QD63) [IF CURNTAGE = 18 OR OLDER] Which one of the following do you consider yourself to be? 1. Heterosexual, that is, straight 2. [If R is female then Lesbian or] Gay 3. Bisexual DK/REF	This is the only version of the question that has been used.
Sexual Attraction	(QD62) [IF CURNTAGE = 18 OR OLDER] People are different in their sexual attraction to other people. Which statement best describes your feelings? [If R is male] 1. I am only attracted to females 2. I am mostly attracted to females 3. I am equally attracted to females and males 4. I am mostly attracted to males 5. I am only attracted to males 6. I am not sure DK/REF [If R is female] 1. I am only attracted to males 2. I am mostly attracted to males 3. I am equally attracted to males and females 4. I am mostly attracted to females 5. I am only attracted to females 6. I am not sure	This is the only version of the question that has been used.
Sexual Behavior	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.
Gender Identity	Currently no questions are asked in this category. Note: Gender is subjectively assigned by interviewer.	Not applicable.
Household Relationships	(QD07) [If curnt age = 15 or older] Are you now married, widowed, divorced or separated, or have you never married? 1. Married 2. Widowed 3. Divorced or Separated 4. Have Never Married DK/REF	This is the only version of the question that has been used.

Category	Question	Question History
	<p>(PERAGEYR) [IF QD54 = 2 - 25] Now I need some additional information about each person who lives here.</p> <p>(MRELATON) [IF CHMONSEX OR CHYRSEX OR PERYRSEX OR PERSEX = 5] HAND R SHOWCARD 6.</p> <p>Please look at this card and tell me which category best describes his relationship to you.</p> <p>INTERVIEWER NOTE: If it is clear to you that the respondent is talking about/rostering themselves, you may say "Is that you?" If the answer is Yes, enter "1" for "SELF". Exchange families (exchange students or people who are hosting exchange students) should be considered "other non-relatives."</p> <p>1 SELF 2 FATHER (INCLUDES STEP, FOSTER, ADOPTIVE) 3 SON (INCLUDES STEP, FOSTER, ADOPTIVE) 4 BROTHER (INCLUDES HALF, STEP, FOSTER, ADOPTIVE) 5 HUSBAND 6 UNMARRIED PARTNER 7 HOUSEMATE OR ROOMMATE 8 SON-IN-LAW 9 GRANDSON 10 FATHER-IN-LAW 11 GRANDFATHER 12 BOARDER OR ROOMER 13 OTHER RELATIVE 14 OTHER NON-RELATIVE DK/REF</p>	<p>This is the only version of the question that has been used.</p>
	<p>(PERYRSEX) [IF PERAGEYR = 2 - 110] Is the [PERAGEYR FILL]-year old person male or female? 5 MALE 9 FEMALE DK/REF</p>	<p>This is the only version of the question that has been used.</p>
	<p>(PERSEX) [IF PERAGEYR = DK/REF] Is this person male or female? 5 MALE 9 FEMALE DK/REF</p>	<p>This is the only version of the question that has been used.</p>

Category	Question	Question History
	<p>(MRELATON) [IF CHMONSEX OR CHYRSEX OR PERYRSEX OR PERSEX = 5] HAND R SHOWCARD 6.</p> <p>Please look at this card and tell me which category best describes his relationship to you.</p> <p>INTERVIEWER NOTE: If it is clear to you that the respondent is talking about/rostering themselves, you may say “Is that you?” If the answer is Yes, enter “1” for “SELF”. Exchange families (exchange students or people who are hosting exchange students) should be considered “other non-relatives.”</p> <p>1 SELF 2 FATHER (INCLUDES STEP, FOSTER, ADOPTIVE) 3 SON (INCLUDES STEP, FOSTER, ADOPTIVE) 4 BROTHER (INCLUDES HALF, STEP, FOSTER, ADOPTIVE) 5 HUSBAND 6 UNMARRIED PARTNER 7 HOUSEMATE OR ROOMMATE 8 SON-IN-LAW 9 GRANDSON 10 FATHER-IN-LAW 11 GRANDFATHER 12 BOARDER OR ROOMER 13 OTHER RELATIVE 14 OTHER NON-RELATIVE DK/REF</p>	<p>This is the only version of the question that has been used.</p>

Response Rates

In 2016, screening was completed at 135,188 addresses and 67,942 interviews were completed. The weighted response rates for household screening were 77.9%; for interviewing they were 68.4%, making the overall response rate 53.3% for persons over the age of 12. The weighted interview response rate was 77% for adolescents and 67.6% for adults.

Below are the response rates and sample sizes for the 2016 NSDUH, organized by demographic characteristics of participants.

Response Rates and Sample Sizes for 2016 NSDUH by Demographic Characteristics

Demographic Characteristic	Selected Individuals	Completed Interviews	Weighted Response Rate
TOTAL	95,607	67,942	68.4%
AGE IN YEARS			
12-17	22,323	17,109	76.95%
18-25	22,836	16,573	72.66%
26 or Older	50,448	34,260	66.74%
GENDER			
Male	46,736	32,391	66.62%
Female	48,871	35,551	70.13%
RACE/ETHNICITY (ages 12 and up)			
Hispanic	16,262	11,967	71.47%
White	59,597	41,389	67.21%
Black	11,010	8,566	75.57%
All Other Races	8,738	6,020	61.73%
REGION			
Northeast	18,782	12,711	64.63%
Midwest	22,649	16,032	68.00%
South	31,462	22,833	70.62%
West	22,714	16,375	68.21%
COUNTY TYPE			
Large Metropolitan	44,121	30,687	66.53%
Small Metropolitan	33,076	23,854	70.55%
Nonmetropolitan	18,410	13,401	71.62%

NOTE: Estimates are based on demographic information obtained from screener data and are not consistent with estimates on demographic characteristics presented in the 2016 set of detailed tables.

Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. Results from the 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables. 2017.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

Organizations Involved

NSDUH is sponsored by the SAMHSA, an agency in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. SAMHSA's Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality oversees all aspects of the study including data collection, analysis and reporting. RTI International, a nonprofit research organization has conducted the study since 1988.

Survey Links

Questionnaires

This survey can be found under the “Survey Resources” heading. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/data-we-collect/nsduh-national-survey-drug-use-and-health>

Data

This information can be found on the main NSDUH website under “Survey Results.” Results from 2016 can be accessed by clicking “Latest Survey Results.” <https://nsduhwebesn.rti.org/respweb/homepage.cfm>

Data from NSDUH surveys up to 2016 can be accessed by using the following link: <https://pdas.samhsa.gov/#/>

General Information

General information on the NSDUH can be found on SAMHSA’s NSDUH website: <https://nsduhweb.rti.org/respweb/homepage.cfm>

Access frequently asked questions (FAQ) at: <https://nsduhweb.rti.org/respweb/faq.html>

References

RTI International. Research Triangle Institute. (2017) <http://www.rti.org/about-us>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The United States Department of Health and Human Services. National Survey on Drug Use and Health (2016). <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/population-data-nsduh>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration & National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Key Substance Use and Mental Health Indicators in the United States: Results from the 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. (2017). <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-FFR1-2016/NSDUH-FFR1-2016.pdf>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration & Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. Results From the 2016 National survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables. (2017). <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-DetTabs-2016/NSDUH-DetTabs-2016.pdf>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration & Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Methodological Summary and Definitions. (2017). <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-MethodSummDefs-2016/NSDUH-MethodSummDefs-2016.pdf>