

CENTER for VICTIM RESEARCH

Building an evidence base for victim services

National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS)

Author(s) of Instrument:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

Key References: Publications related to this instrument

Black, M. C., Basile, K. C., Breiding, M. J., Smith, S. G., Walters, M. L., Merrick, M. T., Chen, J., & Stevens, M. R. (2011). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 summary report*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS_Report2010-a.pdf

Breiding, M. J., Smith, S. G., Basile, K. C., Walters, M. L., Chen, J., & Merrick, M. T. (2014). Prevalence and characteristics of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence victimization—National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States, 2011. *MMWR*, 63(8), 1-18. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6308.pdf>

Smith, S. G., Chen, J., Basile, K. C., Gilbert, L. K., Merrick, M. T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. (2017). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 state report*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf>

Smith, S. G., Zhang, X., Basile, K. C., Merrick, M. T., Wang, J., Kresnow, M., & Chen, J. (2018). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2015 data brief – updated release*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/2015data-brief508.pdf>

Additional publications and resources using NISVS data can be found on the CDC's website here <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/datasources/nisvs/index.html>

Primary Use/Purpose: This section describes what this instrument was designed to measure.

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 in the United States. CDC developed NISVS to collect data on these important public health problems and enhance violence prevention efforts.

The survey is focused exclusively on violence and collects information about:

- Sexual violence by any perpetrator, including information related to rape, being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, unwanted sexual contact, and non-contact unwanted sexual experiences
- Stalking, including the use of newer technologies such as text messages, emails, monitoring devices (e.g., cameras and GPS, or global positioning system devices), by perpetrators known and unknown to the victim
- Physical violence by an intimate partner
- Psychological aggression by an intimate partner, including information on expressive forms of aggression and coercive control
- Control of reproductive or sexual health by an intimate partner

In addition to collecting lifetime and 12 month prevalence data on sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence, the survey collects information on the age at the time of the first victimization, demographic characteristics of respondents, demographic characteristics of perpetrators (age, sex, race/ethnicity) and detailed information about the context in which these types of violence occur.

The primary objectives of the NISVS are to describe the prevalence and characteristics of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence; who is most likely to experience these forms of violence; the patterns and impact of the violence experienced by specific perpetrators; and the health conditions associated with these forms of violence.

Background and Development: How and why this instrument was developed.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control developed the NISVS with support from the National Institute of Justice and the Department of Defense in 2010. The NISVS addresses gaps in knowledge related to sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence. The NISVS was informed by a number of activities and expertise in the field, including: 1) the National Violence Against Women Survey conducted in 1995-1996; 2) a federally sponsored workshop focused on building data systems for

monitoring and responding to sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence; 3) a pilot methods study conducted in 2007; and 4) an expert panel convened in 2007 to review findings from the pilot study and to make recommendations on the design of the survey instrument.

The first national level study using the NISVS was in 2010 with subsequent surveys taking place in 2011, 2012, and 2015, and 2016-2018 using a redesigned instrument. NISVS is a random-digit-dial telephone survey of non-institutionalized English- and/or Spanish-speaking persons aged 18 years and older. NISVS uses a dual-frame sampling strategy that includes both landline and cell phones. The survey is conducted in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The 2010 version of the NISVS questionnaire is the most recent version currently publicly available.

Psychometrics (if applicable): Any testing of this instrument.

Cognitive testing was performed during the questionnaire design process for NISVS. The purpose of the cognitive testing was to provide information on how well the questions worked and whether participants understood the text provided.

Link to Instrument: Link to the instrument if available.

This instrument can be downloaded from the ICPSR website by selecting the “Data and Documentation” tab, clicking the download icon next to “DS1 General Population Raw Data,” and then selecting “Questionnaire.”

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

Submitted by: This survey and associated reports are publicly available on the ICPSR and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention websites.