



What is the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey?

The *National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey* (NISVS) is an ongoing, nationally representative telephone survey from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that collects detailed information on intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual violence (SV), and stalking victimization. The survey collects data on past year experiences of violence as well as lifetime experiences of violence among adult women and men in the United States. In 2010, data were collected from 16,507 adults aged 18 and older (9,086 women and 7,421 men). NISVS was launched in 2010 with the support of the National Institute of Justice and Department of Defense. Findings from the first year of data collection were published in a summary report in December 2011.



In addition to the 2010 Summary Report, CDC is releasing special reports from the 2010 data to focus on specific populations and topics. The first special report is based on respondents' self-identified sexual orientation and their lifetime experiences of IPV, SV, and stalking victimization.



Why is NISVS Important?

- IPV, SV, and stalking are preventable. NISVS aims to create a better understanding of the prevalence, impact, and health consequences of IPV, SV, and stalking, to inform and improve prevention efforts.
- NISVS is also the first national survey to gather data on the prevalence of IPV, SV, and stalking based on respondents' self-reported sexual orientation (heterosexual, lesbian, gay, and bisexual women and men) in the United States.

Highlighted next are key findings from the *National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation* special report, as well as opportunities for prevention, action, and resources.

Visit www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs for the NISVS 2010 Summary Report.

NISVS: 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation

Little is known about the national prevalence of IPV, SV, and stalking among lesbian, gay, and bisexual women and men in the United States. The *NISVS: 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation* special report is the first of its kind to present comparisons between these groups by gender.

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NISVS includes behavior-specific questions that assess IPV, SV, and stalking victimization over the lifetime and during the 12 months prior to the interview.

Intimate Partner Violence. Questions on violence by an intimate partner included physical violence, sexual violence, threats of physical or sexual violence, stalking, control of reproductive or sexual health, and psychological aggression (including coercive tactics) by a current or former intimate partner. A composite measure of intimate partner violence that combines only rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner was constructed as a conservative measure of the overall prevalence of intimate partner violence.

Impact of Intimate Partner Violence. Specific indicators were used to measure the potential impact of intimate partner violence. These included being fearful or concerned about safety, experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms, being injured, needing services, and missing days of work or school.

Sexual Violence by Any Perpetrator. Questions on sexual violence were asked in relation to rape (completed forced penetration, attempted penetration, and alcohol or drug facilitated completed penetration), being forced to penetrate another person, sexual coercion, unwanted sexual contact, and non-contact unwanted sexual experiences.

Stalking by Any Perpetrator. Stalking victimization involves a pattern of harassing or threatening tactics used by a perpetrator that is both unwanted and causes fear or safety concerns in the victim. For the purposes of this report, a person was considered a stalking victim if they experienced multiple stalking tactics one-time or a single stalking tactic multiple times by the same perpetrator and felt very fearful, or believed that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed as a result of the perpetrator's behavior.

Highlights: 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation

Intimate Partner Violence:

- Among women who experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking in the context of an intimate relationship, the majority of bisexual and heterosexual women (89.5% and 98.7%, respectively) reported only male perpetrators while self-identified lesbians (67.4%) reported having only female perpetrators.
- Among men who experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in the context of an intimate relationship, most bisexual and heterosexual men (78.5% and 99.5%, respectively) reported having only female perpetrators, while the majority of self-reported gay men (90.7%) reported having only male perpetrators.
- More than one-third of lesbians (36.3%), over half of bisexual women (55.1%), and more than one-quarter of heterosexual women (29.8%) have been slapped, pushed, or shoved by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime.
- Approximately one-quarter of all men, regardless of sexual orientation reported being slapped, pushed, or shoved by an intimate partner at some point during their lifetime (24.0% gay men, 27.0% bisexual men, and 26.3% heterosexual men).
- Nearly 1 in 3 lesbians (29.4%), 1 in 2 bisexual women (49.3%), and 1 in 4 heterosexual women (23.6%) experienced at least one form of severe physical violence (e.g., hurt by pulling hair, hit with something hard, kicked, slammed against something, tried to hurt by choking or suffocating, beaten, burned on purpose, or had a knife or gun used against them) by an intimate partner in her lifetime.
- Severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime was reported by 16.4% of gay men and 13.9% of heterosexual men.

Lifetime Prevalence of Rape, Physical Violence, and/or Stalking by an Intimate Partner

For women:

Lesbian	43.8%
Bisexual	61.1%
Heterosexual	35.0%

For men:

Gay	26.0%
Bisexual	37.3%
Heterosexual	29.0%

2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation

- Approximately 1 in 5 bisexual women (22.1%) and nearly 1 in 10 heterosexual women (9.1%) have been raped by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

Impact of Intimate Partner Violence:

- More than half of bisexual women (57.4%), a third of lesbians (33.5%), and more than a quarter of heterosexual women (28.2%) who experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner reported at least one negative impact (e.g., missed at least one day of school or work, was fearful, was concerned for her safety, experienced at least one post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptom).

Sexual Violence:

- Approximately 1 in 8 lesbians (13.1%), nearly half of bisexual women (46.1%), and 1 in 6 heterosexual women (17.4%) have been raped in their lifetime. This translates to an estimated 214,000 lesbians, 1.5 million bisexual women, and 19 million heterosexual women.
- Almost half of bisexual women (48.2%) and more than a quarter of heterosexual women (28.3%) were first raped between the ages of 11 and 17 years.
- Nearly half of bisexual men (47.4%), 4 in 10 gay men (40.2%), and 1 in 5 heterosexual men (20.8%) have experienced sexual violence other than rape in their lifetime. This translates to nearly 1.1 million gay men, 903,000 bisexual men, and 21.6 million heterosexual men.

Stalking:

- Approximately 1 in 3 bisexual women (36.6%) and 1 in 6 heterosexual women (15.5%) have been stalked at some point during their lifetime in which they felt very fearful or believed that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed. This translates to 1.2 million bisexual women and 16.8 million heterosexual women.

Opportunities for Prevention and Action

The 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation special report indicate that individuals who self-identify as lesbian, gay and bisexual have an equal or higher prevalence of experiencing IPV and SV, as compared to self-identified heterosexuals. The promotion of respectful, non-violent relationships is key to preventing violence and is not only the responsibility of individuals but also the responsibility of families, communities, and society. Findings from this report highlight the need for broad-based prevention efforts as well as services and support systems that address the specific needs of lesbian, gay and bisexual women and men in this country.



It is important for all sectors of society, including individuals, families, and communities to work together to end IPV, SV, and stalking. Opportunities for prevention and intervention include:

- Implementing prevention approaches that promote acceptance and recognition of healthy, respectful relationships regardless of sexual orientation.
- Researching patterns of violence and the risk and protective patterns associated with violence among lesbian, gay and bisexual persons.
- Referring victims and survivors to culturally appropriate accessible services.

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Resources

The following resources provide additional information on IPV, SV, and stalking; lesbian, gay, and bisexual health; and related prevention efforts.

CDC Resources

LGBT Health:

www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/

NISVS:

www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs

Violence Prevention:

www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention

IPV, SV, Stalking Resources

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence:

www.nrcdv.org

National Sexual Violence Resource Center:

www.nsvrc.org

PreventConnect:

www.preventconnect.org

Stalking Resource Center:

www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center

VAWnet:

www.VAWnet.org

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Specific Resources

Human Rights Campaign:

www.hrc.org

LA Gay and Lesbian Center:

www.laglc.org

The National Anti-Violence Project:

www.avp.org