

National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey:

2015 Data Brief – Updated Release





The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2015 Data Brief – Updated Release

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The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey:

2015 Data Brief – Updated Release

Sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence are serious public health problems affecting millions of people in the United States each year. These forms of violence are associated with chronic physical and psychological adverse health conditions, and violence experienced as a child or adolescent is a risk factor for repeated victimization as an adult. First launched in 2010 by CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) is an ongoing, nationally representative survey that assesses sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence victimization among adult women and men in the United States.

This brief report presents the highlights from the 2015 data year of NISVS. Data tables are presented at the end of the report.

Recognition is given to the team of people that substantially contributed to the original development of the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: Kathleen C. Basile, Michele C. Black, Matthew J. Breiding, James A. Mercy, Linda E. Saltzman, and Sharon G. Smith (contributors listed in alphabetical order).

Sexual Violence

How NISVS Measured Sexual Violence

Four types of **sexual violence** are included in this brief report. These include rape, being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, and unwanted sexual contact.

Rape is any completed or attempted unwanted vaginal (for women), oral, or anal penetration through the use of physical force (such as being pinned or held down, or by the use of violence) or threats to physically harm and includes times when the victim was drunk, high, drugged, or passed out and unable to consent. Rape is separated into three types: completed forced penetration, attempted forced penetration, and completed alcohol- or drug-facilitated penetration. Among women, rape includes vaginal, oral, or anal penetration by a male using his penis. It also includes vaginal or anal penetration by a male or female using their fingers or an object. Among men, rape includes oral or anal penetration by a male using his penis. It also includes anal penetration by a male or female using their fingers or an object.

Being made to penetrate someone else includes times when the victim was made to, or there was an attempt to make them, sexually penetrate someone without the victim's consent because the victim was physically forced (such as being pinned or held down, or by the use of violence) or threatened with physical harm, or when the victim was drunk, high, drugged, or passed out and unable to consent. Among women, this behavior reflects a female being made to orally penetrate another female's vagina or anus or another male's anus. Among men, being made to penetrate someone else could have occurred in multiple ways: being made to vaginally penetrate a female using one's own penis; orally penetrating a female's vagina or anus; anally penetrating a male or female; or being made to receive oral sex from a male or female. It also includes male and female perpetrators attempting to force male victims to penetrate them, though it did not happen.

Sexual coercion is unwanted sexual penetration that occurs after a person is pressured in a nonphysical way. In NISVS, sexual coercion refers to unwanted vaginal, oral, or anal sex after being pressured in ways that included being worn down by someone who repeatedly asked for sex or showed they were unhappy; feeling pressured by being lied to, being told promises that were untrue, having someone threaten to end a relationship or spread rumors; and sexual pressure due to someone using their influence or authority.

Unwanted sexual contact is unwanted sexual experiences involving touch but not sexual penetration, such as being kissed in a sexual way, or having sexual body parts fondled, groped, or grabbed.

Contact sexual violence is a combined measure that includes rape, being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, and/or unwanted sexual contact.

1 in 5 women
experienced completed
or attempted rape during
her lifetime.

1 in 14 men
was made to penetrate someone
(completed or attempted) during
his lifetime.

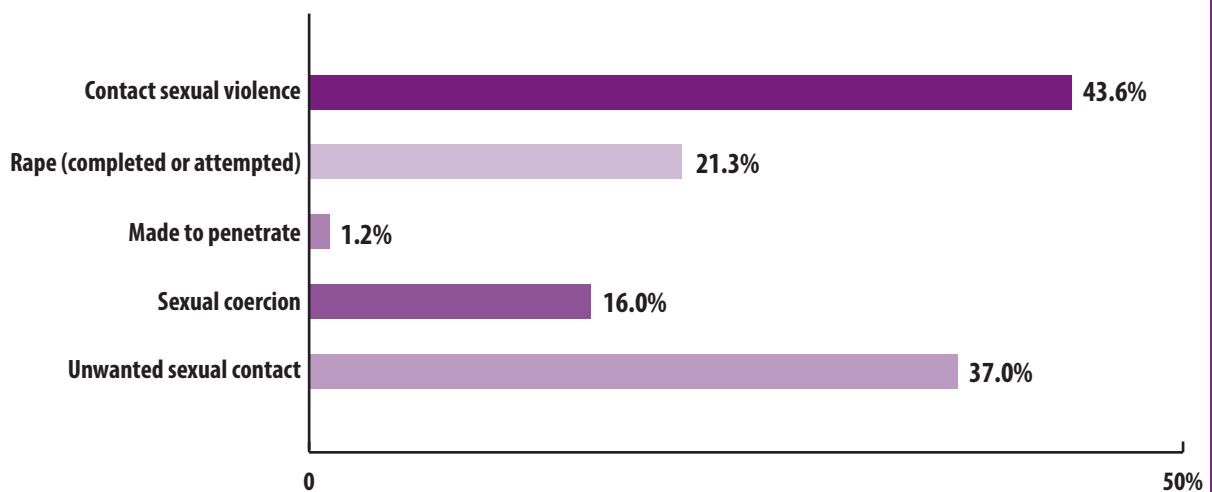


Sexual Violence of Women

- In the U.S., 43.6% of women (nearly 52.2 million) experienced some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetime (Figure 1), with 4.7% of women experiencing this violence in the 12 months preceding the survey (Table 1).
- Approximately 1 in 5 (21.3% or an estimated 25.5 million) women in the U.S. reported completed or attempted rape at some point in their lifetime.
 - About 13.5% of women experienced completed forced penetration, 6.3% experienced attempted forced penetration, and 11.0% experienced completed alcohol/drug-facilitated penetration at some point in their lifetime.
- In the U.S., 1.2% of women (approximately 1.5 million) reported completed or attempted rape in the 12 months preceding the survey.
- Approximately 1.2% of women (nearly 1.4 million) have been made to penetrate someone else in their lifetime.
- Approximately 1 in 6 women (16.0% or an estimated 19.2 million women) experienced sexual coercion (e.g., being worn down by someone who repeatedly asked for sex, sexual pressure due to someone using their influence or authority) at some point in their lifetime.
- More than a third of women (37.0% or approximately 44.3 million women) reported unwanted sexual contact (e.g., groping) in their lifetime.

Figure 1

Lifetime Prevalence of Sexual Violence Victimization—U.S. Women, NISVS 2015^{1,2}



¹ All percentages are weighted to the U.S. population.

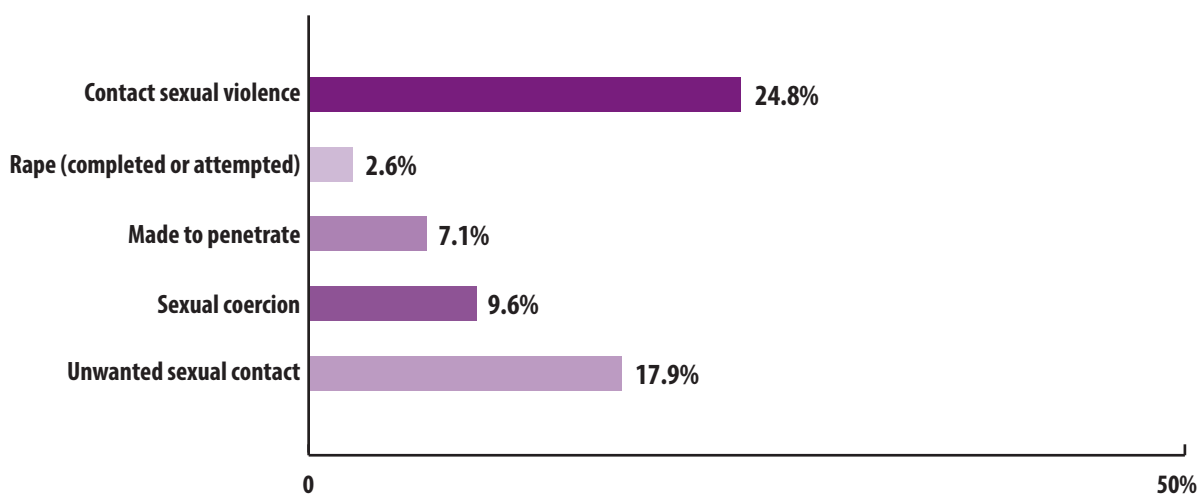
² Contact sexual violence includes rape, being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, and/or unwanted sexual contact.

Sexual Violence of Men

- Nearly a quarter of men (24.8% or 27.6 million) in the U.S. experienced some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetime (Figure 2), with 3.5% of men experiencing contact sexual violence in the 12 months preceding the survey (Table 2).
- About 1 in 14 men (7.1% or nearly 7.9 million) in the U.S. was made to penetrate someone else (attempted or completed) at some point in their lifetime.
 - Approximately 1.6% of men were made to penetrate through completed forced penetration, 1.4% experienced situations where attempts were made to make them penetrate someone else through use of force, and 5.5% were made to penetrate someone else through completed alcohol/drug facilitation at some point in their lifetime.
- In the U.S., 0.7% of men (an estimated 827,000 men) reported being made to penetrate (attempted or completed) in the 12 months preceding the survey.
- About 2.6% of U.S. men (an estimated 2.8 million) experienced completed or attempted rape victimization in their lifetime.
- Approximately 1 in 10 men (9.6% or an estimated 10.6 million men) experienced sexual coercion (e.g., being worn down by someone who repeatedly asked for sex, sexual pressure due to someone using their influence or authority) in their lifetime.
- Almost one fifth of men (17.9% or approximately 19.9 million men) reported unwanted sexual contact (e.g., groping) at some point in their lifetime.

Figure 2

Lifetime Prevalence of Sexual Violence Victimization—U.S. Men, NISVS 2015^{1,2}



¹ All percentages are weighted to the U.S. population.

² Contact sexual violence includes rape, being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, and/or unwanted sexual contact.

Age at First Completed or Attempted Rape and Made to Penetrate

Females

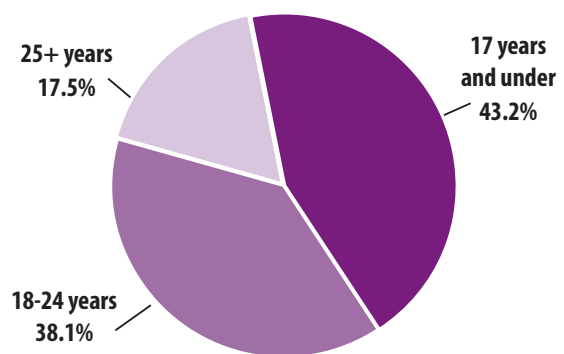
- A majority of female victims of completed or attempted rape first experienced such victimization early in life, with 81.3% (nearly 20.8 million victims) reporting that it first occurred prior to age 25 (Table 3).
- Among female victims of completed or attempted rape, 43.2% (an estimated 11.0 million victims) reported that it first occurred prior to age 18, with 30.5% (about 7.8 million victims) reporting that their first victimization occurred between the ages of 11 and 17, and 12.7% (an estimated 3.2 million victims) at age 10 or younger (Figure 3).

Males

- The majority of male victims (70.8% or an estimated 2.0 million) of completed or attempted rape reported that their first experience occurred prior to age 25 (Table 4).
- Among male victims of completed or attempted rape, 51.3% (about 1.5 million victims) first experienced such victimization prior to age 18, with 25.3% (718,000 victims) reporting that their first victimization occurred between the ages of 11 and 17 and 26.0% (738,000 victims) at age 10 or younger.
- The majority (65.5% or nearly 5.2 million) of male victims who were made to penetrate someone else (completed or attempted) first experienced this victimization before age 25.
- About a quarter of male victims (25.9%, or an estimated 2.0 million victims) of completed or attempted made to penetrate reported that their first victimization occurred before the age of 18, with 19.2% (1.5 million victims) reporting that it first occurred between the ages of 11 and 17 (Figure 4).

Figure 3

Age at First Completed or Attempted Rape Victimization in Lifetime Among Female Victims—NISVS 2015^{1,2,3,4}



¹ The reported age is the youngest age reported across all perpetrators.

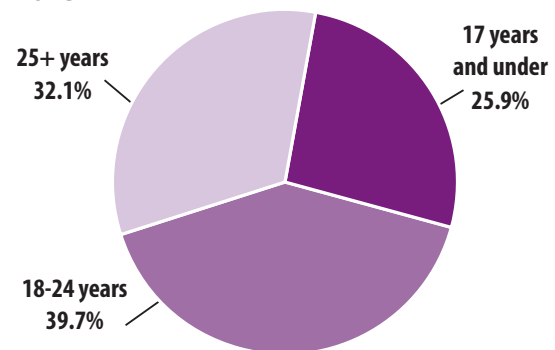
² All percentages are weighted to the U.S. population.

³ Victims with unknown age are not represented in the figure.

⁴ A small subset of victims of completed or attempted rape could have also experienced completed or attempted being made to penetrate by the same perpetrator and the age at first could reflect those experiences.

Figure 4

Age at First Completed or Attempted Made to Penetrate Victimization in Lifetime Among Male Victims—NISVS 2015^{1,2,3,4}



¹ The reported age is the youngest age reported across all perpetrators.

² All percentages are weighted to the U.S. population.

³ Victims with unknown age are not represented in the figure.

⁴ A small subset of victims of completed or attempted made to penetrate could have also experienced completed or attempted rape by the same perpetrator and the age at first could reflect those experiences.

Stalking

Stalking of Women

- Nearly 1 in 6 women (16.0%, or 19.1 million) in the U.S. were victims of stalking at some point in their lifetime, during which she felt very fearful or believed that she or someone close to her would be harmed or killed (Figure 5, Table 5).
- An estimated 3.7% (about 4.5 million) of U.S. women were victims of stalking in the 12 months preceding the survey.

Stalking of Men

- About 1 in 17 (5.8% or 6.4 million) men in the U.S. were victims of stalking at some point in their lifetime, during which he felt very fearful or believed that he or someone close to him would be harmed or killed (Figure 5, Table 6).
- An estimated 1.9% (2.1 million) of U.S. men were victims of stalking in the 12 months preceding the survey.

How NISVS Measured Stalking

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 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.

Stalking tactics measured:

- Unwanted phone calls, voice or text messages, hang-ups
- Unwanted emails, instant messages, messages through social media
- Unwanted cards, letters, flowers, or presents
- Watching or following from a distance, spying with a listening device, camera, or global positioning system (GPS)
- Approaching or showing up in places, such as the victim's home, workplace, or school when it was unwanted
- Leaving strange or potentially threatening items for the victim to find
- Sneaking into victim's home or car and doing things to scare the victim or let the victim know the perpetrator had been there

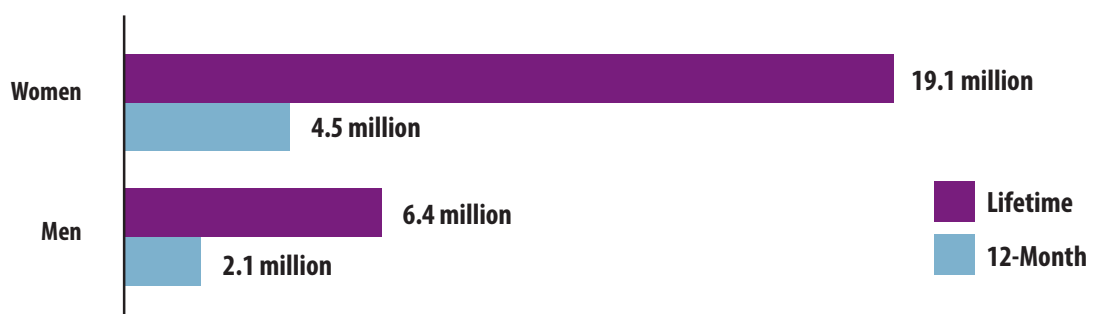
In follow-up questions, respondents who were identified as possible stalking victims were asked about their experiences of two additional tactics:

- Damaged personal property or belongings, such as in their home or car
- Made threats of physical harm

Millions of women and men have been stalked at some point in their lifetime.

Figure 5

Lifetime and 12-Month Estimated Number of Stalking Victims—NISVS 2015^{1,2}



¹ Rounded to the nearest thousand.

² All estimated number of victims are weighted to the U.S. adult population.

Age at First Stalking

Females

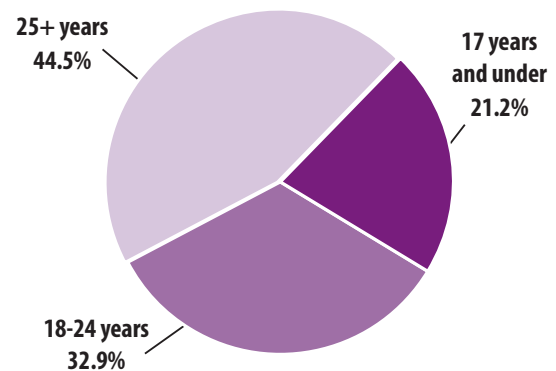
- Over half of female stalking victims reported that such victimization first occurred before the age of 25 (54.1% or about 10.4 million victims) including 21.2% who were first stalked before age 18 (Table 7).
- An estimated 44.5% of female stalking victims (or 8.5 million victims) were first victimized at age 25 or older (Figure 6).

Males

- Nearly 41% of male victims first experienced stalking before age 25 (40.5% or approximately 2.6 million victims) including 12.9% who were first stalked prior to age 18 (Table 8).
- Over half of male victims (58.8% or nearly 3.8 million victims) reported that their first stalking experience began at age 25 or older (Figure 7).

Figure 6

Age at Time of First Stalking Victimization in Lifetime Among Female Victims—NISVS 2015^{1,2,3}



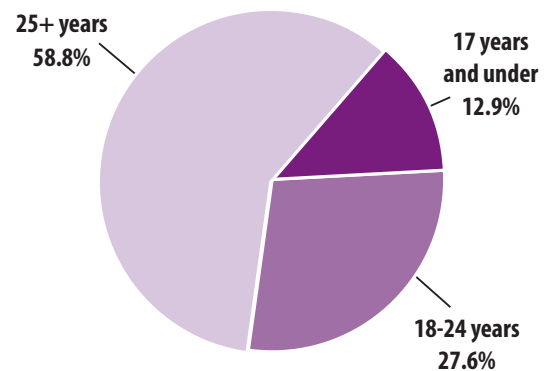
¹ The reported age is the youngest age reported across all perpetrators.

² All percentages are weighted to the U.S. population.

³ Victims with unknown age are not represented in the figure.

Figure 7

Age at Time of First Stalking Victimization in Lifetime Among Male Victims—NISVS 2015^{1,2,3}



¹ The reported age is the youngest age reported across all perpetrators.

² All percentages are weighted to the U.S. population.

³ Victims with unknown age are not represented in the figure.

Intimate Partner Violence

How NISVS Measured Intimate Partner Violence

Four types of **intimate partner violence** are included in this report. These include sexual violence, stalking, physical violence, and psychological aggression. In NISVS, an intimate partner is described as a romantic or sexual partner and includes spouses, boyfriends, girlfriends, people with whom they dated, were seeing, or “hooked up.”

Sexual violence includes rape, being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, and unwanted sexual contact. Contact sexual violence is a combined measure that includes rape, being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, and/or unwanted sexual contact.

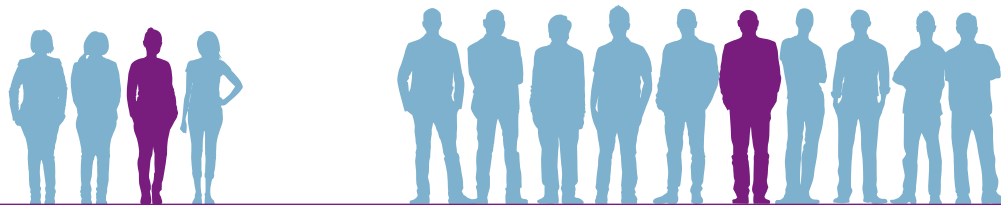
Stalking victimization involves a pattern of harassing or threatening tactics used by a perpetrator that is both unwanted and causes fear or safety concerns in the victim.

Physical violence includes a range of behaviors from slapping, pushing or shoving to severe acts that include hit with a fist or something hard, kicked, hurt by pulling hair, slammed against something, tried to hurt by choking or suffocating, beaten, burned on purpose, used a knife or gun.

Psychological aggression includes expressive aggression (such as name calling, insulting or humiliating an intimate partner) and coercive control, which includes behaviors that are intended to monitor and control or threaten an intimate partner.

Intimate partner violence-related impact includes experiencing any of the following: being fearful, concerned for safety, injury, need for medical care, needed help from law enforcement, missed at least one day of work, missed at least one day of school. The following impacts were also included in the lifetime estimate only: any post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms, need for housing services, need for victim advocate services, need for legal services and contacting a crisis hotline. For those who experienced rape or made to penetrate by an intimate partner, it also includes a lifetime estimate of having contracted a sexually transmitted infection or having become pregnant (females only). Intimate partner violence-related impact questions were assessed among victims of contact sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner either during the lifetime or in the last 12 months. The impacts were assessed for specific perpetrators and asked in relation to any form of intimate partner violence experienced in that relationship. By definition, all stalking victimizations result in impact because the definition of stalking requires the experience of fear or concern for safety. Because violent acts often do not occur in isolation and are frequently experienced in the context of other violence committed by the same perpetrator, questions regarding the impact of the violence were asked in relation to all forms of intimate partner violence experienced (sexual violence, physical violence, stalking, psychological aggression) by the perpetrator in that relationship.

About **1 in 4 women** and **1 in 10 men** experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner and reported an IPV-related impact during their lifetime.

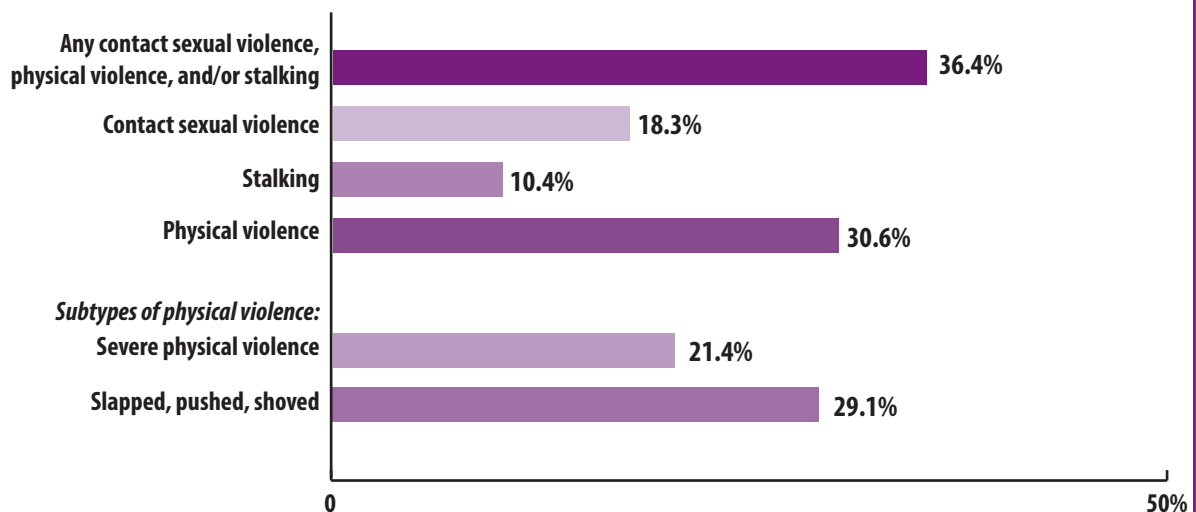


Intimate Partner Violence of Women

- In the U.S., over 1 in 3 (36.4% or 43.6 million) women experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime (Figure 8).
- About 1 in 4 women (25.1% or 30.0 million) in the U.S. experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime and reported some form of IPV-related impact (Table 9).
- Regarding specific subtypes of intimate partner violence, about 18.3% of women experienced contact sexual violence, 30.6% experienced physical violence (21.4% experienced severe physical violence), and 10.4% experienced stalking during their lifetime.
- An estimated 1 in 18 (5.5% or about 6.6 million) women in the U.S. experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during the 12 months preceding the survey.
- Over one-third of women (36.4% or 43.5 million) experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner during their lifetime (Table 10).

Figure 8

Lifetime Prevalence of Contact Sexual Violence,¹ Physical Violence, and/or Stalking Victimization by an Intimate Partner—U.S. Women, NISVS 2015²



¹ Contact sexual violence includes rape, being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, and/or unwanted sexual contact.

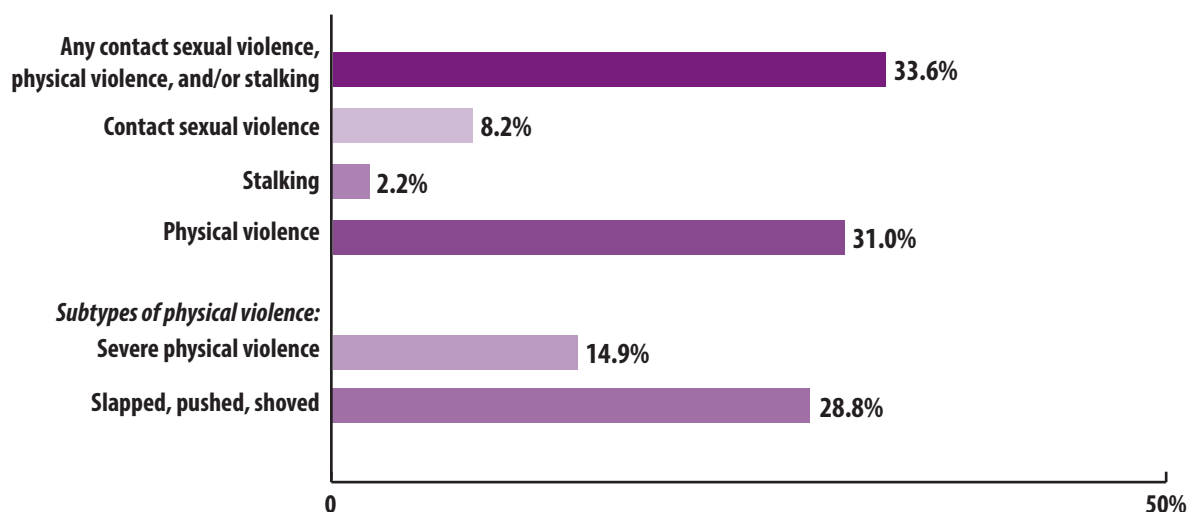
² All percentages are weighted to the U.S. population.

Intimate Partner Violence of Men

- In the U.S., about 1 in 3 (33.6% or 37.3 million) men experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime (Figure 9).
- Nearly 1 in 10 (10.9% or 12.1 million) men in the U.S. experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime and reported some form of IPV-related impact (Table 11).
- Regarding specific subtypes of intimate partner violence, 8.2% of men experienced contact sexual violence, 31.0% experienced physical violence (14.9% experienced severe physical violence), and 2.2% experienced stalking during their lifetime.
- About 1 in 20 (5.2% or 5.8 million) men in the U.S. experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during the 12 months preceding the survey.
- Over one-third of men (34.2% or 38.1 million) experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner during their lifetime (Table 12).

Figure 9

Lifetime Prevalence of Contact Sexual Violence,¹ Physical Violence, and/or Stalking Victimization by an Intimate Partner—U.S. Men, NISVS 2015²



¹ Contact sexual violence includes rape, being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, and/or unwanted sexual contact.

² All percentages are weighted to the U.S. population.

Age at First Contact Sexual Violence, Physical Violence, and/or Stalking by an Intimate Partner

Females

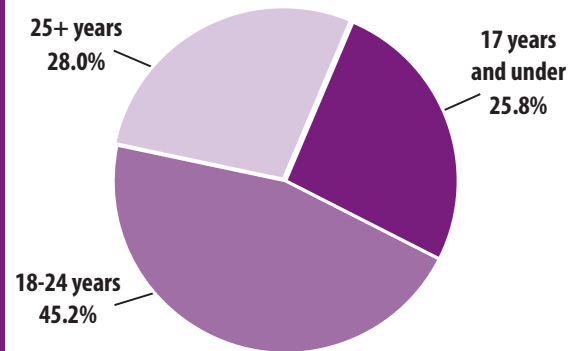
- The majority of women who were victims of contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner first experienced these or other forms of violence by that partner before age 25 (71.1% or nearly 31.0 million victims), and 1 in 4 female victims (25.8% or about 11.3 million victims) first experienced intimate partner violence prior to age 18 (Figure 10, Table 13).

Males

- Over half of men who were victims of contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner first experienced these or other forms of violence by that partner before age 25 (55.8% or 20.8 million victims), and 14.6% of male victims (5.4 million victims) first experienced intimate partner violence prior to age 18 (Figure 11, Table 14).

Figure 10

Age at First Intimate Partner Violence Among Female Victims of Lifetime Contact Sexual Violence, Physical Violence, or Stalking by an Intimate Partner—NISVS 2015^{1,2,3,4}



¹ The reported age is the youngest age reported across all perpetrators.

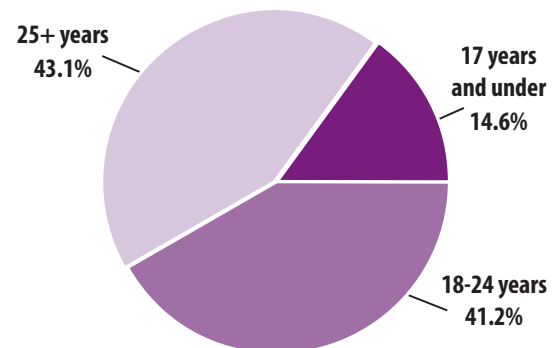
² All percentages are weighted to the U.S. population.

³ Victims with unknown age are not represented in the figure.

⁴ Represents the age at the first experience of IPV among women who experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner. IPV includes physical violence, all forms of sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression.

Figure 11

Age at First Intimate Partner Violence Among Male Victims of Lifetime Contact Sexual Violence, Physical Violence, or Stalking by an Intimate Partner—NISVS 2015^{1,2,3,4}



¹ The reported age is the youngest age reported across all perpetrators.

² All percentages are weighted to the U.S. population.

³ Victims with unknown age are not represented in the figure.

⁴ Represents the age at the first experience of IPV among men who experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner. IPV includes physical violence, all forms of sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression.

Summary

This report presents the prevalence of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence among adults and their age at first victimization. In the United States, the experience of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence is far too common, with millions of people reporting victimization during their lifetime. Both women and men experience these forms of violence, but a greater number of women experienced several types of violence examined. For instance, during their lifetime, 1 in 5 women experienced completed or attempted rape; 1 in 6 women were stalked; and 1 in 4 experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner and reported some form of intimate partner violence-related impact. Results indicate that many males are also experiencing these forms of violence. For example, during their lifetime, 1 in 14 men were made to sexually penetrate someone else; 1 in 17 men were stalked; and 1 in 10 experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner and reported some form of intimate partner violence-related impact. Furthermore, findings indicate that these forms of violence often begin early in life for both women and men. Across the majority of violence types measured, most first time victimization occurred prior to age 25, and many victims first experienced violence before age 18.

Sexual violence, stalking and intimate partner violence are serious public health problems that begin early in life and are preventable. Primary prevention of violence benefits from a comprehensive, multi-sectored approach that starts early in the lifespan. CDC has published technical packages for sexual violence, intimate partner violence, child abuse and neglect, youth violence and suicide prevention to assist communities and states in prioritizing prevention efforts. These technical packages describe prevention strategies based on the best available evidence. All of the technical packages are available at <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pub/technical-packages.html>.

As described in the technical packages, it is important that prevention efforts address different levels of the social ecology (i.e., individual, relationship, community, and society) and emphasize the primary prevention of perpetration of these forms of violence (i.e., preventing the violence before it happens) to reduce future risk and the many costs associated with violence. NISVS serves as an important element of the prevention process by providing data that can be used to describe the burden of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence; these data can be used to inform public health action and response.

Limitations

The findings in this brief report are subject to a few limitations. First, random-digit-dial telephone surveys have unique challenges that may affect the representativeness of the sample, such as declining response rates and possible non-response bias. For 2015, the response rate was fairly low (26.4%) but the cooperation rate was very high (89.6%), meaning that once contact was made with selected adults and eligibility was confirmed, they usually agreed to participate in the survey. Efforts were made to reduce the potential of non-response bias and undercoverage. Specifically, in addition to utilizing both landline and cell-phone sampling frames, a non-response follow-up phase was conducted with randomly selected non-respondents in which participants were offered an increased incentive. Second, NISVS is designed as a household survey and does not reach populations such as those who are institutionalized or residing in healthcare facilities, shelters, military bases, etc. Third, estimates presented in this report are likely to be underestimates of the true prevalence. Although NISVS questions cover a range of victimization experiences, it is not possible to include all types of victimization. Additionally, some participants might not be comfortable disclosing their experiences to an interviewer due to stigma, ongoing trauma, or safety concerns (especially if currently involved in a violent relationship). Fourth, self-report data are vulnerable to recall bias and telescoping, in which respondents report incidents as having occurred closer in time than they actually did; such bias might affect 12-month estimates especially. However, allowing the respondent to report their lifetime victimization is likely to reduce the potential for telescoping. Fifth, the intimate partner violence impact questions were designed to capture the context of the victimization with specific perpetrators; therefore, the impacts of specific types of violence cannot be assessed. Finally, the age at first victimization was asked in relation to the perpetrator (i.e., the first time violence occurred with the specific perpetrator), thus it was not always possible to

determine the age at first victimization for specific types of violence, especially when multiple forms of violence were committed by the same perpetrator.

We urge readers to exercise caution when comparing estimates to previous NISVS years or other population-based data sources for two reasons. First, there are differences in the NISVS survey instruments across data years, and these differences could impact the prevalence estimates. For example, the measurement of the 12-month IPV-related impact was revised in 2015 to capture impact that occurred during the past 12 months. In the previously published reports, estimates of victimization captured experiences occurring in the past 12 months but the impact could have happened at any point in that relationship and was not limited to the past 12 months. Second, there are differences in the methodology between NISVS and other surveys, such as the sampling design, the language and terminology used, and the context in which the victimization questions are presented to respondents. NISVS uses a variety of techniques to increase respondent comfort and disclosure of their experiences, such as a graduated informed consent process, a safety plan, and the use of interviewers who are trained in administering surveys of sensitive topics. These are described in more detail in the 2010 Summary Report, available at https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS_Report2010-a.pdf.

Despite these limitations, population-based public health surveys using numerous behaviorally specific questions continue to be an important source of information on sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence, in part because they can capture victimization that may not be viewed as a crime by the victim, or may not require health care treatment. Numerous behaviorally specific questions are important to adequately measure these complex forms of violence and to enable the interviewer to build rapport and trust with the respondent.

Methods

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) is an ongoing, nationally representative random-digit-dial (RDD) telephone survey of sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and stalking among adult women and men in the United States. Noninstitutionalized English- and/or Spanish-speaking persons aged 18 years and older are surveyed using a dual-frame strategy that includes landline and cell phones. Surveys are conducted in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The estimates presented in this brief report are based on a total of 10,081 completed interviews conducted between April and September 2015. Interviews were completed by 5,758 women and 4,323 men; 32% of the interviews were conducted by landline and 68% by cell phone. The overall weighted response rate was 26.4% (AAPOR RR4) with a weighted cooperation rate (AAPOR COOP4, AAPOR, 2015) of 89.6%. The NISVS 2015 survey followed the same methodology as in earlier years with the following exceptions:

- (1) Elimination of State-specific estimates. Due to the reduced target sample size, the data collection effort for NISVS 2015 was not designed to produce state-specific estimates; therefore, state-level stratification of the sample was not included in the 2015 sampling. This approach led to the elimination of under- or oversampling of states.
- (2) Use of a two-part sampling approach for cell phone numbers. Once sampled from the cell phone frame an activity code (“Active” vs. “Inactive/Unknown” working status) was appended to each telephone number sampled from the cell phone frame. Cellular numbers flagged as “Active” were dialed at 100%, whereas others were subsampled at a rate aimed to achieve a balance between statistical and cost efficiencies. This approach limited the effort placed on dialing numbers that may not be active.
- (3) Increased Phase-2 calls. The call protocol was revised to shorten the Phase-1 number of calls while increasing the number of calls for Phase-2 (initial non-respondent subsampling phase), where a higher incentive was offered in an effort to obtain interviews from those initially reluctant to respond who might differ from early responders.

These changes in the sampling design for 2015 necessitated corresponding changes to the weighting methodology. These included (a) the elimination of unequal selection probability adjustment for states, and (b) an additional adjustment step to account for the double sampling approach used in the cellular frame. Other changes included the elimination of a propensity score method to adjust for nonresponse bias, a different method (Hartley, 1962) to combine the overlapping dual frame samples to form a national sample, and the inclusion of additional calibration dimensions (marital status, education, and Census division in addition to sex, age, and race/ethnicity). Additional methodological information about the sampling strategy and weighting for the earlier years can be found in the NISVS State Report 2010-2012 (Smith et al., 2017) available at <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf>.

As NISVS 2015 is a complex sample survey, sampling weights are needed in statistical analyses in order to make inferences to the U.S. adult population. Prevalence estimates, produced separately for males and females, were derived by calculating the weighted percentage of victims among the respective subpopulations. Because some respondents were missing age at first victimization data for selected types of violence victimization, the percent distribution of victims by age at first may not sum to 100% for some forms of violence. All victims are included in the denominator without regard to age at first information, but victims with missing age at first victimization are not included in the estimated percentage of age at first victimization. For each estimated percentage, the number of victims in the population was also computed, along with 95% confidence intervals for each. All analyses were conducted using SUDAAN (version 11.01, Research Triangle Institute, 2013) statistical software to account for the various sample design features. For every estimate in this report, two statistical reliability criteria were considered jointly: the relative standard error (RSE), which is a measure of an estimate’s statistical reliability, and the victim count for each form of violence. For any given estimate, if the RSE was greater than 30% or the victim count was 20 or less, the estimate was not reported. Matters that could

influence the width of a confidence interval may include the sample size, the confidence level desired, and the variability of the sample data. A relatively narrower confidence interval may be indicative of a less varied estimate whereas a wider confidence interval may be due to a small sample size or reflect a larger variability in the data, given the same level of confidence.

The survey instrument utilizes behaviorally specific questions to assess victimization of sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and stalking during the lifetime and 12 months prior to taking the survey. The survey development process is described more fully in the 2010 Summary Report (Black et al., 2011), available at https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS_Report2010-a.pdf. A detailed description and list of the victimization questions from the survey are included in the NISVS State Report 2010-2012 (Smith et al., 2017) available at <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf>.

The 2015 instrument included some modifications to the sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence questions. First, the questions about unwanted sexual experiences that did not involve physical contact (i.e., noncontact unwanted sexual experiences) were removed. Second, the script introducing the stalking items was revised to include additional perpetrator examples (i.e., friend, teacher, co-worker, or supervisor, family member). Third, the script introducing the alcohol/drug-facilitated rape and made to penetrate items was reworded to say: "When you were unable to consent because you were too drunk, high, drugged, or passed out, how many people ever...?" Fourth, the psychological aggression items were reduced to the following five items: insulted, humiliated, or made fun of you in front

of others; kept you from having your own money; tried to keep you from seeing or talking to your family or friends; kept track of you by demanding to know where you were and what you were doing; and made threats to physically harm you. Additionally, the perpetrator follow-up questions (i.e., collecting initials and specific perpetrator information) were removed for the psychological aggression items only. Furthermore, while not specifically described in this report, the following additional changes were made to the IPV impact section of the survey: three injury items were added to increase specificity (injury to any ligaments, muscles, or tendons; back or neck injury; and head injury) and were asked of respondents who reported having experienced injury; distinct questions were created for having missed at least one day of work or school (these items were previously combined into one question); seven questions were added that specifically assessed 12-month impact, in addition to lifetime impact, for the following impacts: being fearful, concerned for safety, injury, need for medical care, needed help from law enforcement, missed at least one day of work, and missed at least one day of school. Readers should be aware that this revision to the measurement of the 12-month IPV-related impact changes the interpretation of this construct from that of previous years. In previous NISVS reports, while estimates of victimization captured experiences that occurred during the previous 12 months, the IPV-related impact could have occurred at any point in the relationship and was not limited to the past 12 months. However, in the current measurement, 12-month IPV-related impact refers to the subset of impacts that did occur during the past 12 months. Finally, other changes were made to sections of the survey that are not used in this report.

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Tables

Table 1

Lifetime and 12-Month Prevalence of Sexual Violence Victimization — U.S. Women, NISVS 2015

	Lifetime			12-Month		
	Weighted %	95% CI	Estimated Number of Victims*	Weighted %	95% CI	Estimated Number of Victims*
Contact sexual violence¹	43.6	(41.9, 45.2)	52,192,000	4.7	(4.0, 5.4)	5,600,000
Rape	21.3	(20.0, 22.7)	25,529,000	1.2	(0.9, 1.7)	1,484,000
Completed or attempted forced penetration	16.0	(14.8, 17.2)	19,142,000	0.6	(0.4, 1.0)	719,000
Completed forced penetration	13.5	(12.4, 14.7)	16,169,000	0.4	(0.2, 0.7)	517,000
Attempted forced penetration	6.3	(5.6, 7.2)	7,568,000	--	--	--
Completed alcohol/drug-facilitated penetration	11.0	(10.0, 12.1)	13,185,000	0.9	(0.6, 1.3)	1,026,000
Made to penetrate	1.2	(0.8, 1.6)	1,398,000	--	--	--
Sexual coercion	16.0	(14.9, 17.3)	19,194,000	2.4	(1.9, 3.0)	2,899,000
Unwanted sexual contact	37.0	(35.5, 38.6)	44,349,000	2.7	(2.2, 3.3)	3,260,000

Abbreviation: CI = confidence interval.

¹Contact sexual violence includes rape, being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, and/or unwanted sexual contact.

*Rounded to the nearest thousand.

--Estimate not reported; relative standard error > 30% or cell size ≤ 20.

Table 2**Lifetime and 12-Month Prevalence of Sexual Violence Victimization — U.S. Men, NISVS 2015**

	Lifetime			12-Month		
	Weighted %	95% CI	Estimated Number of Victims*	Weighted %	95% CI	Estimated Number of Victims*
Contact sexual violence¹	24.8	(23.2, 26.5)	27,608,000	3.5	(2.9, 4.3)	3,916,000
Rape	2.6	(2.0, 3.2)	2,839,000	--	--	--
Completed or attempted forced penetration	1.4	(1.0, 1.9)	1,526,000	--	--	--
Completed forced penetration	0.8	(0.6, 1.3)	943,000	--	--	--
Attempted forced penetration	0.5	(0.3, 0.8)	583,000	--	--	--
Completed alcohol/drug-facilitated penetration	1.6	(1.2, 2.2)	1,772,000	--	--	--
Made to penetrate	7.1	(6.2, 8.1)	7,876,000	0.7	(0.5, 1.1)	827,000
Made to penetrate - completed or attempted forced	2.7	(2.2, 3.4)	2,992,000	--	--	--
Made to penetrate - completed forced penetration	1.6	(1.2, 2.2)	1,826,000	--	--	--
Made to penetrate - attempted forced penetration	1.4	(1.1, 1.9)	1,576,000	--	--	--
Made to penetrate - completed alcohol/drug-facilitated	5.5	(4.7, 6.4)	6,089,000	0.6	(0.4, 1.0)	648,000
Sexual coercion	9.6	(8.5, 10.7)	10,644,000	1.6	(1.2, 2.1)	1,769,000
Unwanted sexual contact	17.9	(16.5, 19.4)	19,883,000	2.0	(1.5, 2.5)	2,188,000

Abbreviation: CI = confidence interval.

¹Contact sexual violence includes rape, being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, and/or unwanted sexual contact.

*Rounded to the nearest thousand.

--Estimate not reported; relative standard error > 30% or cell size ≤ 20.

Table 3**Age at Time of First Completed or Attempted Rape Victimization Among Female Victims — NISVS 2015¹**

Age Group	Weighted %	95% CI	Estimated Number of Victims*
Under 18	43.2	(39.7, 46.8)	11,027,000
10 and under	12.7	(10.4, 15.3)	3,232,000
11 to 17	30.5	(27.3, 33.9)	7,794,000
Under 25	81.3	(78.3, 83.9)	20,752,000
18 to 24	38.1	(34.7, 41.6)	9,725,000
25 and older	17.5	(14.9, 20.4)	4,462,000
25 to 34	12.4	(10.1, 15.0)	3,154,000
35 to 44	3.5	(2.5, 5.0)	905,000
45 and older	1.6	(1.0, 2.6)	404,000

Abbreviation: CI = confidence interval.

¹A small subset of victims of completed or attempted rape could have also experienced completed or attempted being made to penetrate by the same perpetrator, and the age at first could reflect those experiences.

*Rounded to the nearest thousand.

Table 4**Age at Time of First Rape and Made to Penetrate Victimization Among Male Victims — NISVS 2015^{1,2}**

Age Group	Rape (completed or attempted) ¹			Made to Penetrate (completed or attempted) ²		
	Weighted %	95% CI	Estimated Number of Victims*	Weighted %	95% CI	Estimated Number of Victims*
Under 18	51.3	(39.5, 62.9)	1,456,000	25.9	(20.3, 32.3)	2,039,000
10 and under	26.0	(16.5, 38.4)	738,000	--	--	--
11 to 17	25.3	(16.1, 37.3)	718,000	19.2	(14.5, 25.0)	1,515,000
Under 25	70.8	(59.2, 80.3)	2,011,000	65.5	(58.5, 72.0)	5,163,000
18 to 24	19.6	(12.4, 29.4)	555,000	39.7	(33.2, 46.6)	3,124,000
25 and older	25.1	(16.3, 36.5)	713,000	32.1	(25.8, 39.1)	2,529,000
25 to 34	--	--	--	16.6	(12.0, 22.5)	1,307,000
35 to 44	--	--	--	10.4	(6.6, 16.0)	816,000
45 and older	--	--	--	--	--	--

Abbreviation: CI = confidence interval.

¹A small subset of victims of completed or attempted rape could have also experienced completed or attempted being made to penetrate by the same perpetrator, and the age at first could reflect those experiences.

²A small subset of victims of completed or attempted made to penetrate could have also experienced completed or attempted rape by the same perpetrator, and the age at first could reflect those experiences.

*Rounded to the nearest thousand.

--Estimate is not reported; relative standard error > 30% or cell size ≤ 20.

Table 5**Lifetime and 12-Month Prevalence of Stalking Victimization — U.S. Women, NISVS 2015¹**

	Lifetime			12-Month		
	Weighted %	95% CI	Estimated Number of Victims*	Weighted %	95% CI	Estimated Number of Victims*
Stalking	16.0	(14.8, 17.2)	19,145,000	3.7	(3.1, 4.5)	4,466,000

Abbreviation: CI = confidence interval.

¹Using a less conservative definition of stalking, which considers any amount of fear (i.e., a little fearful, somewhat fearful, or very fearful), 21.6% of women (25,812,000) were victims of stalking in their lifetime, and 5.0 (5,966,000) experienced stalking in the 12 months preceding the survey.

*Rounded to the nearest thousand.

Table 6**Lifetime and 12-Month Prevalence of Stalking Victimization — U.S. Men, NISVS 2015¹**

	Lifetime			12-Month		
	Weighted %	95% CI	Estimated Number of Victims*	Weighted %	95% CI	Estimated Number of Victims*
Stalking	5.8	(4.9, 6.7)	6,408,000	1.9	(1.4, 2.5)	2,104,000

Abbreviation: CI = confidence interval.

¹Using a less conservative definition of stalking, which considers any amount of fear (i.e., a little fearful, somewhat fearful, or very fearful), 7.8% of men (8,727,000) were victims of stalking in their lifetime, and 2.6% (2,915,000) experienced stalking in the 12 months preceding the survey.

*Rounded to the nearest thousand.

Table 7**Age at Time of First Stalking Victimization Among Female Victims — NISVS 2015**

Age Group	Weighted %	95% CI	Estimated Number of Victims*
Under 18	21.2	(18.0, 24.9)	4,065,000
10 and under	--	--	--
11 to 17	20.3	(17.1, 24.0)	3,895,000
Under 25	54.1	(49.9, 58.2)	10,356,000
18 to 24	32.9	(29.1, 36.9)	6,291,000
25 and older	44.5	(40.4, 48.7)	8,524,000
25 to 34	26.4	(22.9, 30.3)	5,060,000
35 to 44	10.5	(8.3, 13.2)	2,007,000
45 and older	7.6	(5.6, 10.2)	1,456,000

Abbreviation: CI = confidence interval.

*Rounded to the nearest thousand.

--Estimate is not reported; relative standard error > 30% or cell size ≤ 20.

Table 8**Age at Time of First Stalking Victimization Among Male Victims — NISVS 2015**

Age Group	Weighted %	95% CI	Estimated Number of Victims*
Under 18	12.9	(8.4, 19.3)	826,000
10 and under	--	--	--
11 to 17	10.3	(6.3, 16.3)	658,000
Under 25	40.5	(33.0, 48.5)	2,595,000
18 to 24	27.6	(21.2, 35.1)	1,769,000
25 and older	58.8	(50.8, 66.3)	3,768,000
25 to 34	21.0	(15.5, 27.8)	1,345,000
35 to 44	22.6	(16.2, 30.7)	1,450,000
45 and older	15.2	(10.3, 21.8)	973,000

Abbreviation: CI = confidence interval.

*Rounded to the nearest thousand.

--Estimate is not reported; relative standard error > 30% or cell size ≤ 20.

Table 9**Lifetime and 12-Month Prevalence of Contact Sexual Violence,¹ Physical Violence, and/or Stalking Victimization by an Intimate Partner — U.S. Women, NISVS 2015**

	Lifetime			12-Month		
	Weighted %	95% CI	Estimated Number of Victims*	Weighted %	95% CI	Estimated Number of Victims*
Any contact sexual violence, ¹ physical violence, and/or stalking	36.4	(34.8, 38.0)	43,579,000	5.5	(4.8, 6.3)	6,584,000
Contact sexual violence ¹	18.3	(17.0, 19.6)	21,897,000	2.4	(2.0, 3.0)	2,932,000
Physical violence	30.6	(29.1, 32.2)	36,632,000	2.9	(2.3, 3.5)	3,455,000
Slapped, pushed, shoved	29.1	(27.6, 30.6)	34,828,000	2.6	(2.1, 3.3)	3,160,000
Any severe physical violence ²	21.4	(20.0, 22.8)	25,570,000	1.9	(1.5, 2.5)	2,295,000
Stalking	10.4	(9.5, 11.5)	12,499,000	2.2	(1.7, 2.7)	2,591,000
Any contact sexual violence, ¹ physical violence, and/or stalking with IPV-related impact ³	25.1	(23.7, 26.5)	30,025,000	3.0	(2.5, 3.7)	3,635,000

Abbreviation: CI = confidence interval; IPV = intimate partner violence.

¹Contact sexual violence includes rape, being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, and/or unwanted sexual contact.

²Severe physical violence includes hit with a fist or something hard, kicked, hurt by pulling hair, slammed against something, tried to hurt by choking or suffocating, beaten, burned on purpose, used a knife or gun.

³Includes experiencing any of the following: being fearful, concerned for safety, injury, need for medical care, needed help from law enforcement, missed at least one day of work, missed at least one day of school. The following impacts were also included in the lifetime estimate only: any post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms, need for housing services, need for victim advocate services, need for legal services and contacting a crisis hotline. For those who experienced rape or made to penetrate by an intimate partner, it also includes a lifetime estimate of having contracted a sexually transmitted infection or having become pregnant. Intimate partner violence-related impact questions were assessed among victims of contact sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner either during the lifetime or in the last 12 months. The impacts were assessed for specific perpetrators and asked in relation to any form of intimate partner violence experienced in that relationship. By definition, all stalking victimizations result in impact because the definition of stalking requires the experience of fear or concern for safety.

*Rounded to the nearest thousand.

Table 10**Lifetime Prevalence of Psychological Aggression by an Intimate Partner — U.S. Women, NISVS 2015¹**

	Weighted %	95% CI	Estimated Number of Victims*
Any psychological aggression	36.4	(34.8, 38.0)	43,546,000
Expressive aggression - Insulted, humiliated, made fun of in front of others	25.7	(24.3, 27.2)	30,770,000
Any coercive control	30.6	(29.1, 32.2)	36,654,000
Kept you from having your own money	9.6	(8.7, 10.6)	11,501,000
Tried to keep from seeing or talking to family or friends	16.4	(15.2, 17.6)	19,622,000
Kept track of by demanding to know where you were and what you were doing	23.5	(22.2, 25.0)	28,185,000
Made threats to physically harm	19.7	(18.4, 21.0)	23,546,000

Abbreviation: CI = confidence interval.

¹Represents a subset of the psychological aggression items that were included in previous administrations of the NISVS survey.

*Rounded to the nearest thousand.

Table 11**Lifetime and 12-Month Prevalence of Contact Sexual Violence,¹ Physical Violence, and/or Stalking Victimization by an Intimate Partner — U.S. Men, NISVS 2015**

	Lifetime			12-Month		
	Weighted %	95% CI	Estimated Number of Victims*	Weighted %	95% CI	Estimated Number of Victims*
Any contact sexual violence, ¹ physical violence, and/or stalking	33.6	(31.8, 35.4)	37,342,000	5.2	(4.4, 6.1)	5,786,000
Contact sexual violence ¹	8.2	(7.2, 9.2)	9,082,000	1.6	(1.2, 2.2)	1,833,000
Physical violence	31.0	(29.2, 32.7)	34,436,000	3.8	(3.2, 4.6)	4,255,000
Slapped, pushed, shoved	28.8	(27.1, 30.5)	31,983,000	3.4	(2.8, 4.1)	3,729,000
Any severe physical violence ²	14.9	(13.6, 16.3)	16,556,000	2.0	(1.5, 2.6)	2,219,000
Stalking	2.2	(1.7, 2.8)	2,485,000	0.8	(0.5, 1.3)	918,000
Any contact sexual violence, ¹ physical violence, and/or stalking with IPV-related impact ³	10.9	(9.8, 12.1)	12,118,000	1.9	(1.4, 2.5)	2,101,000

Abbreviation: CI = confidence interval; IPV = intimate partner violence.

¹Contact sexual violence includes rape, being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, and/or unwanted sexual contact.

²Severe physical violence includes hit with a fist or something hard, kicked, hurt by pulling hair, slammed against something, tried to hurt by choking or suffocating, beaten, burned on purpose, used a knife or gun.

³Includes experiencing any of the following: being fearful, concerned for safety, injury, need for medical care, needed help from law enforcement, missed at least one day of work, missed at least one day of school. The following impacts were also included in the lifetime estimate only: any post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms, need for housing services, need for victim advocate services, need for legal services and contacting a crisis hotline. For those who experienced rape or made to penetrate by an intimate partner, it also includes a lifetime estimate of having contracted a sexually transmitted infection. Intimate partner violence-related impact questions were assessed among victims of contact sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner either during the lifetime or in the last 12 months. The impacts were assessed for specific perpetrators and asked in relation to any form of intimate partner violence experienced in that relationship. By definition, all stalking victimizations result in impact because the definition of stalking requires the experience of fear or concern for safety.

*Rounded to the nearest thousand.

Table 12**Lifetime Prevalence of Psychological Aggression by an Intimate Partner — U.S. Men, NISVS 2015¹**

	Weighted %	95% CI	Estimated Number of Victims*
Any psychological aggression	34.2	(32.5, 36.0)	38,068,000
Expressive aggression - Insulted, humiliated, made fun of in front of others	17.4	(16.0, 18.9)	19,338,000
Any coercive control	29.8	(28.1, 31.5)	33,117,000
Kept you from having your own money	5.1	(4.4, 6.1)	5,725,000
Tried to keep from seeing or talking to family or friends	12.2	(11.0, 13.5)	13,543,000
Kept track of by demanding to know where you were and what you were doing	24.9	(23.3, 26.6)	27,698,000
Made threats to physically harm	10.1	(9.0, 11.3)	11,235,000

Abbreviation: CI = confidence interval.

¹Represents a subset of the psychological aggression items that were included in previous administrations of the NISVS survey.

*Rounded to the nearest thousand.

Table 13**Age at Time of First Victimization of Contact Sexual Violence,¹ Physical Violence, and/or Stalking by an Intimate Partner² Among Female Victims — NISVS 2015**

Age Group	Weighted %	95% CI	Estimated Number of Victims*
Under 18	25.8	(23.5, 28.4)	11,264,000
10 and under	--	--	--
11 to 17	25.6	(23.2, 28.1)	11,140,000
Under 25	71.1	(68.6, 73.5)	30,978,000
18 to 24	45.2	(42.5, 48.0)	19,713,000
25 and older	28.0	(25.6, 30.5)	12,193,000
25 to 34	19.0	(16.9, 21.2)	8,259,000
35 to 44	6.5	(5.4, 8.0)	2,854,000
45 and older	2.5	(1.8, 3.4)	1,080,000

Abbreviation: CI = confidence interval.

¹Contact sexual violence includes rape, being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, and/or unwanted sexual contact.

²Represents the age at the first experience of IPV among women who experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner. IPV includes physical violence, all forms of sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression.

*Rounded to the nearest thousand.

--Estimate is not reported; relative standard error > 30% or cell size ≤ 20.

Table 14**Age at Time of First Victimization of Contact Sexual Violence,¹ Physical Violence, and/or Stalking by an Intimate Partner² Among Male Victims — NISVS 2015**

Age Group	Weighted %	95% CI	Estimated Number of Victims*
Under 18	14.6	(12.4, 17.0)	5,444,000
10 and under	--	--	--
11 to 17	14.4	(12.3, 16.9)	5,394,000
Under 25	55.8	(52.5, 59.0)	20,832,000
18 to 24	41.2	(38.0, 44.5)	15,388,000
25 and older	43.1	(39.9, 46.3)	16,087,000
25 to 34	26.0	(23.3, 28.9)	9,713,000
35 to 44	10.4	(8.6, 12.6)	3,883,000
45 and older	6.7	(5.2, 8.5)	2,491,000

Abbreviation: CI = confidence interval.

¹Contact sexual violence includes rape, being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, and/or unwanted sexual contact.

²Represents the age at the first experience of IPV among men who experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner. IPV includes physical violence, all forms of sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression.

*Rounded to the nearest thousand.

--Estimate is not reported; relative standard error > 30% or cell size ≤ 20.

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