

***Apples to Oranges:
Comparing Survey Findings from Selected National Surveys on Intimate Partner Violence***

Contextual and methodological differences among surveys contribute to differences in estimates of the incidence and prevalence of intimate partner violence. The following table summarizes the key features of three national population-based surveys – the ongoing National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey and National Crime Victimization Survey, and the older National Violence Against Women Survey – to help explain how different data sets produce disparate findings.

NOTE: The text appearing in [plum](#) below represents a live link to a website or document, although given the size of some of the documents, they may take a few minutes to open. Full URLs for the referenced studies are also included on the last page and these may open more quickly.

	National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS)	National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)	National Violence Against Women Survey (NVAWS)
Study Sponsor	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)	National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Timeframe	Survey launched in 2010. Most current data available (published) is for 2010, the first year of data collection. Ongoing.	Annual data collection conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Initiated in 1972 and redesigned in 1992. Latest data available is from 2011. Each household is interviewed twice during the year.	One time-funded survey conducted from November 1995 to May 1996.
Sample	Nationally representative sample of non-institutionalized English and/or Spanish-speaking women and men aged 18 or older in the U.S. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2010 (latest data available), 16,507 adults (9,086 women and 7,421 men) were interviewed. 	Nationally representative sample of U.S. households; persons age 12 or older. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2011 (latest data available), about 79,800 households and 143,120 persons were interviewed. 	Nationally representative sample of 8,000 U.S. women and 8,000 U.S. men (with a telephone in their household), 18 years and older.

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Key Findings (most current)	<p>Black, M.C., et al. (2011). <i>The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 in 4 women have been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner, while 1 in 7 men experienced such violence. • 81% of women who experienced rape, stalking or physical violence by an intimate partner reported significant short or long term impacts related to the violence experienced, such as being fearful, PTSD symptoms and injury, while 35% of men report such impacts of their experiences. • Female victims experience multiple forms of violence, including physical violence, rape, and stalking; male victims most often experience physical violence only. • On average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in the U.S. Over the course of a year, that is more than 12 million women and men. 	<p>(1) Catalano, S. (2012, November). <i>Intimate Partner Violence, 1993–2010</i> and (2) Planty, M., & Truman, J. (2012, October). <i>Criminal Victimization, 2011</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 1994 to 2010, about 4 in 5 victims of intimate partner violence were female. (1) • Most female victims of intimate partner violence were previously victimized by the same offender, including 77% of females ages 18 to 24, 76% of females ages 25 to 34, and 81% of females ages 35 to 49. (1) • From 1993 to 2010, the overall rate of IPV in the U.S. declined by 64%. However, during the most recent 10-year period from 2001 to 2010, the decline in the overall IPV rate slowed and stabilized while the overall violent crime rate continued to decline. (1) • Total domestic violence victimizations, or crime committed by family members and intimates, increased slightly from 1.1 million in 2010 to 1.4 million in 2011. (2) 	<p>Tjaden, P., & Thoennes, N. (2000). <i>Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence – Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearly 1 in 4 women are raped and/or physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, cohabiting partner, or date in their lifetime. • Approximately 1.5 million women and 834,732 men are raped and/or physically assaulted by an intimate partner annually in the U.S. • Approximately 4.8 million intimate partner rapes and physical assaults are perpetrated against U.S. women annually, and approximately 2.9 million intimate partner physical assaults are committed against U.S. men annually.

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Methodology and Contextual Factors	<p>IPV Definition: IPV includes physical violence, sexual violence, threats of physical or sexual violence, stalking and psychological aggression (including coercive tactics) by a current or former intimate partner. IPV may occur among cohabiting romantic or sexual partners and among opposite or same-sex couples.</p> <p>Methodology: Random digit dial (RDD) telephone survey that assesses experiences of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence among adult women and men in the U.S. and for each individual state. Measures lifetime victimization and victimization in the 12 months prior to taking the survey.</p> <p>Contextual Factors (Health Survey): Interviewers ask a series of health-related questions at the outset of the survey to establish rapport and establish a health context for the survey. Confidentiality procedures and safety protocols were also enhanced in comparison to other national surveys.</p>	<p>IPV Definition: Nonfatal IPV includes rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault committed by an offender who was the victim’s current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend. Includes opposite and same-sex relationships.</p> <p>Methodology: Self-reporting survey in which participants are asked about the frequency, characteristics and consequences of criminal victimizations experienced during the prior six months. Information is collected on nonfatal crimes <i>both</i> reported and not reported to police.</p> <p>Contextual Factors (Crime Survey): Data generated by the NCVS are thought to underestimate the rates of IPV. NCVS estimates reflect only the acts that victims label as “criminal” and report to interviewers (e.g., psychological aggression or coercive tactics may not be recognized as “crimes”).</p>	<p>IPV Definition: IPV includes rape, physical assault, and stalking perpetrated by current and former dates, spouses, and cohabiting partners, with cohabiting meaning living together at least some of the time as a couple. Both same-sex and opposite-sex cohabitants are included in the definition.</p> <p>Methodology: Telephone interviews in which participants are queried about their experiences as victims of various forms of violence, including intimate partner violence. Measures lifetime victimization and victimization in the 12 months prior to taking the survey.</p> <p>Contextual Factors (Safety Survey): NVAWS was administered in the context of a survey on personal safety rather than crime, and it generated substantially higher intimate partner victimization rates than those generated by the NCVS.</p>

	<p>The survey includes detailed behavior-specific questions on components of sexual violence and intimate partner violence that the other surveys have not measured. Examples include information on types of sexual violence other than rape, coercive control, and control of reproductive or sexual health. NISVS also includes stalking tactics related to newer technologies that did not exist as a stalking modality when previous surveys were conducted (e.g., NVAWS).</p> <p>NISVS asked respondents whether they have experienced physically violent acts specifically by a romantic or sexual partner. (Other surveys have asked respondents to identify whether they have experienced physical violence by any perpetrator, and then respondents are subsequently asked whether the perpetrator was an intimate partner.) NISVS approach may have increased reporting by focusing respondents on intimate partner violence specifically rather than physically violent acts that may have been perpetrated by others, such as strangers and acquaintances.</p>		
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For Additional Information	<p>Black, M.C., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Walters, M.L., Merrick, M.T., Chen, J., & Stevens, M.R. (2011). <i>The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report</i>. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC</p> <p><i>NISVS Resource Page</i></p> <p>Contact CDC Phone: 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) Online Form: http://www.cdc.gov/cdc-info/requestform.htm</p>	<p>Catalano, S. (2012, November). <i>Intimate Partner Violence, 1993–2010</i>. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.</p> <p>Planty, M., & Truman, J. (2012, October). <i>Criminal Victimization, 2011</i>. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.</p> <p>Contact BJS Phone: 1-800-999-0960 or 1-734-998-9825 Email: askbjs@usdoj.gov</p>	<p>Tjaden, P., & Thoennes, N. (2000). <i>Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence – Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey</i>. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.</p> <p>Tjaden, P., & Thoennes, N. (2000). <i>Full Report of the Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women</i>. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.</p> <p>Contact NIJ Phone: 202-307-2942 Online Form: http://nij.ncjrs.gov/App/AskNIJ/Default.aspx</p>

FULL URLS FOR REFERENCED STUDIES

NISVS - Resource Page: <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/NISVS/index.html>

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report.

http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pdf/NISVS_Report2010-a.pdf

NCVS - Intimate Partner Violence, 1993-2010. <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/ipv9310.pdf>

Criminal Victimization, 2011. <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv11.pdf>

NVAWS - Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence - Findings for the National Violence Against Women Survey (2000).

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/181867.pdf>

Full Report of the Prevalence, incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women (2000).

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/183781.pdf>