

Results from a Cognitive Interview Evaluation of Select Topics and Questions for the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey

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Introduction

The staff of the National Center for Health Statistics' (NCHS) Collaborating Center for Questionnaire Design and Evaluation Research (CCQDER) conducted a cognitive interview study in preparation for a re-design of the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS)¹. NISVS is a periodic survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) that collects national and sub-national information on intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and stalking victimization.

Following the 2015 iteration of the NISVS, NCIPC modified the 2016-2018 questionnaire in an effort to reduce respondent burden. Internal review of the changes revealed disparate estimates for variables of interest as compared to the 2015 iteration of the survey. NCIPC staff determined that one potential cause of the differences in estimates was measurement error due to questionnaire framing and a change in the number of perpetrators captured on the questionnaire. In order to investigate these potential sources of error, NCIPC collaborated with NCHS to conduct a systematic questionnaire evaluation focused on these two areas.

The evaluation took a two-pronged approach. The first part was a quantitative evaluation which involved the administration of a short, methodological survey on a commercial survey panel as part of NCHS' Research and Development Survey (RANDS) series. The second part of the evaluation was qualitative. CCQDER conducted cognitive interviews to evaluate the modified 2016-2018 questionnaire. Part of the cognitive testing component also included demographic questions on gender identity that are being considered for NISVS and federal surveys in general. This report focuses on the cognitive interview evaluation of question topics that relate specifically to intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and stalking victimization.

The methodological design of the cognitive interviews is discussed next, followed by the research findings. The full test instrument is found in the Appendix.

Methodology

Sampling and Respondent Demographics: As a qualitative evaluation, cognitive interviewing employs a purposive non-random sample whereby individuals are chosen on the basis of characteristics relevant to the questions under investigation. As such, respondents who had experienced stalking behavior or any type of violence in past or present intimate relationships were recruited for the study.

A total of 20 English-speaking respondents were interviewed. Most respondents self-identified as either male or female. One respondent self-identified as a transgender woman. Half the sample was 30 years or younger and a majority (70%) were non-Hispanic Black. Finally, about half of the respondents (55%)

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/datasources/nisvs/index.html>

had a high school diploma or less. The other 45% had a college or graduate degree. Table 1 summarizes the sample composition.

Table 1: Demographic Sample Composition (n = 20)		
	Number	Percent
Gender Identity		
Male	5	25%
Female	14	70%
Other Gender Identity	1	5%
Age in Years		
30 and Under	10	50%
40 - 49	3	15%
50 - 59	3	15%
60 and Over	4	20%
Race/Ethnicity		
Non-Hispanic Black	14	70%
Non-Hispanic White	4	20%
Non-Hispanic Asian	2	10%
Educational Attainment		
High School Diploma or Less	11	55%
Associate or Bachelor's Degree	7	35%
Graduate Degree	2	10%

Data collection: The cognitive interviews were conducted in two parts. First, interviewers read the questions to respondents and recorded their answers. In the second portion, interviewers followed-up with retrospective probes to ascertain respondent understandings of the questions and instructions, rationales for their answers, and whether any response error occurred. Interviews were a maximum of 60 minutes in length and took place virtually using the Zoom internet meeting platform. The standard CCQDER remuneration of \$40 was mailed to respondents once the interview ended.

Due to the sensitive nature of the questions, the interview protocol included augmented safety measures for the respondent. At the start of the interview, respondents were reminded first by the recruiter and again by the interviewer that they could refuse to answer any question or end the interview at any time.² Respondents were also offered a safe and discrete way to end the interview should their privacy be compromised at any point during the discussion. Additionally, a list of toll-free help lines was made available to respondents who exhibited any distress or discomfort during the interview. Distress levels were categorized as mild, moderate, or severe. Interviewers were responsible for identifying and reporting moderate or severe distress to the Ethics Review Board (ERB), however, no respondents demonstrated that level of distress during the interviews. In part this was due to interviewer skill in recognizing discomfort in a respondent and refraining from further probing. Despite these precautions, nine respondents – almost half – did exhibit mild distress and were given a copy of the helpline telephone numbers and web resources at the end of the interview. The highly sensitive nature of the topics and questions had implications for data quality and is discussed further in the findings section.

² This procedure is associated with all CCQDER projects but was reiterated to respondents a second time in this project.

Analysis: Analysis of interview data included a process similar to the constant comparative method first developed by Glaser and Strauss (1967)³ and adapted to cognitive interviews by Miller et al. (2014).⁴ Data analysis was assisted by the use of Q-Notes⁵, a software application specifically designed for cognitive interview studies. The first stage of analysis occurred within each interview. This involved analyzing a respondent's narrative during probing and comparing it to their survey answers to assess internal consistency, identify response error, and document the respondent's understanding of the questions and instructions. The second stage of analysis was a comparison of interpretations by question across interviews to identify larger patterns in the question-response process and forms of response error. Lastly, patterns and themes were compared for any subgroup differentiation, for example, by gender identity and marital status.

Findings by Section

Not all questions were evaluated individually. Instead, respondents' understandings of the questions were explored in the context of four sections of the survey: 1. stalking, 2. rape (including alcohol/drug-facilitated rape, rape due to threats of harm/physical force, and attempted rape), 3. physical violence, and 4. technology-facilitated violence. The questions tested can be found in the Appendix. Interviewers explored respondents' understandings of the introductions to the sections, the experiences respondents included in (and excluded from) their answers, and the extent to which respondents could provide specific details for each perpetrator they reported.

1. Stalking

The introduction to the stalking section is meant to frame the types of experiences respondents should think about when answering the questions. The first series of seven questions asks if respondents ever experienced specific stalking behaviors (such as being followed or repeatedly contacted). Those who answer 'yes' to any of the seven stalking criteria questions are then asked how many perpetrators engaged in those behaviors toward them on more than one occasion and whether any of those people made them feel unsafe or physically threatened them. Respondents are lastly asked detailed questions about any person who stalked them on more than one occasion and threatened them with violence or otherwise made them feel unsafe. For various reasons, discussed next, respondents did not always follow the logic of the section and response errors occurred as a result.

Concepts of harassment and unwanted attention cause confusion

Harassment: In some cases, the introduction to the stalking section did not lend itself to an accurate interpretation of the questions that followed. In particular, the concept of harassment included in the introduction may have broadened the type of experiences respondents considered, perhaps beyond what was intended. The first sentence of the stalking introduction reads: 'First are some detailed

³ Glaser, B. and Strauss, A. (1967) *The Discovery of Grounded Theory: Strategies for Qualitative Research*. Hawthorne, NY: Aldine de Gruyter.

⁴ Miller, K., Willson, S., Chepp, V., & Padilla, J.-L. (2014) *Cognitive Interviewing Methodology: A Sociological Approach for Survey Question Evaluation*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

⁵ [Q-Notes: Analysis Software for Question Evaluation \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/qnotes/)

questions about times in your life when someone may have ever given you unwanted attention by repeatedly contacting you, following you, or harassing you.'

The word 'harass' often caused respondents to think of verbally or physically abusive behavior, rather than stalking behavior, particularly when answering ST08 (How many people did any of these things to you on more than one occasion?). Respondents did not limit their reply to ST08 to the people they included in the first seven questions on stalking criteria. Some included additional people who had verbally or physically harassed them in other ways. For example, one respondent originally included two people in her answers to the stalking criteria questions. However, when asked if the first person she reported in ST08 ever did any of the behaviors in the first seven stalking criteria questions she said, "No -- because we lived together. So, he didn't have to come and show up. He was more of a vocal, ran his mouth to me all the time. He was more a harassing, verbal abuse person." As she reflected on her answer, she was able to diagnose the disconnect and said, "I think I might have gotten confused because you asked the question 'did the person harass you'." Although that was not an actual question, she was remembering the introduction which said the questions are about 'unwanted attention' such as someone 'repeatedly contacting you, following you, or harassing you.'

Another respondent also thought of verbal threats of violence from an ex-boyfriend and included him in her answer to ST08 (How many people did any of these things to you on more than one occasion?) even though she was not thinking of him when answering the first seven questions. She said, "I had a boyfriend physically threaten me one time. An ex. He said on the phone if I didn't give him a certain amount of money, he was going to come down and beat my ass. And then I'm thinking of the other three that threatened that we just discussed. And then I had a boyfriend at the time where he said he wanted to kill me. He was choking me." When asked if the boyfriend who choked her also did things like follow her, she said, "No." Other respondents also focused on the word 'harassed' in the introduction and thought of verbal harassment they experienced. One respondent included a family member who belittled him at family functions. He said, "So the other family member -- so it's crazy when I say it, but I took it as a threat -- my aunt. She always crapped on me and my brother...because she owned a house. And me and my brother never owned a house." However, she never engaged in any stalking behavior.

Unwanted attention: In addition to the word 'harassment,' the phrase 'unwanted attention' also prompted some respondents to think of experiences beyond stalking. For example, one respondent also thought of the harassment and unwanted attention he received from an ex-girlfriend that blurred the line between stalking behavior and physically threatening behavior. When answering ST06 (Has anyone ever sent you unwanted messages through social media?) he asked, "What do you mean 'unwanted messages'? Like threats? If they're talking about threats, I've had exes send me threatening messages like, 'I'll smash your windshield if I find out you're cheating on me.' I mean, I had that. I'm not sure it that classifies as an answer." Another respondent thought of a prospective employer's unwanted attention as harassment for ST06 (Has anyone ever sent you unwanted messages through social media, such as Facebook, Instagram, and chat rooms?) saying, "I just told you one. He just sent me--when he texted and asked me would I have sex while I'm performing my job. That was an unwanted message."

Different experiences blend together

Not all response error can be attributed to the wording of the introduction. Some amount of confusion was due to the complex nature of human relationships and overlapping experiences of stalking, verbal abuse, physical abuse, and even rape with the same perpetrator. Respondents had no difficulty understanding the initial seven questions individually as intended; however, as mentioned above, when

answering the follow-up questions regarding specific perpetrators who made them feel unsafe, many respondents shifted their thinking. In the follow-up questions respondents thought of experiences different from and in addition to what they reported in the first seven questions. This was true because instead of limiting their thoughts to only stalking behavior, their thought processes often grouped together *all* unwanted and harassing experiences. As a result, topics in the survey blended together across the different sections.

Several respondents demonstrated how stalking and various forms of sexual assault were often lumped together as unwanted, predatory behavior – especially for respondents with multiple experiences and/or multiple perpetrators. In these cases, answering questions that attempt to disentangle these experiences can be difficult or impossible. For example, one respondent had been a model. She said, “See the reason why I have a hard time with this is because it's such a slippery slope because I used to be a model. And the industry is ripe for people giving you all kinds of unwanted attention. Employers, prospective employers, I mean they do this all the time. You'll clearly say, look, I have a boyfriend and I'm very happy and they won't listen. They'll still keep coming on to you. So, it's hard to just say, oh, three or four people because so many people do this, and they've done this all the time.” She decided to answer ‘yes’ to most of the stalking criteria questions. When asked what her hesitation was, she said, “Um...I mean because I've received quite a few unwanted things. But I don't know if it was necessarily consistently following or stalking, if that makes any sense. But it was definitely unwanted.”

Another respondent had been an exotic dancer. She also found it difficult to answer for every offender because there were so many and because they had engaged in a variety of unwanted behaviors that were all sexual in some way. This included but was not limited to stalking. In answering the questions, she took quite a bit of time and explained, “I'm trying to remember the chronological order of things.” When asked to explain further she said:

“Yeah. So I worked as a dancer. A lot of the fingering questions, that tends to be an issue that we deal with regularly. I wasn't sure how much contact -- I would say that's a lot of extreme contact. I was occasionally assaulted digitally. I would say two times. Of course, I can barely remember it because you kind of get desensitized to that kind of thing when it occurs so frequently. And it wasn't really regarded as sexual assault until recently. It was just considered part of the job. And there's not really any kind of compassion for exotic dancers or anybody who's considered sex workers, I guess. So that's why it's difficult to say exactly...These things happen every day. It's hard to track.”

When asked if stalking occurred as well, she said, “That [stalking] was all [related to] the dancing. It's hard to track.” Her experiences in that job blurred the lines between stalking and various types of sexual violence, as they were all seen as unwanted behaviors toward her.

Survey context

The context of the survey also informed respondents’ interpretations of some of the questions on stalking. The topic of the survey in general caused some respondents to initially think only of romantic or sexual relationships – despite the introduction emphasizing the need to include anyone who engaged in stalking behavior (for example, family, friends, teachers, coworkers, strangers, etc.). For example, when one respondent got to the questions that roster individual stalkers, she grew confused when she saw the question asking how she knew the stalker because the categories included relationships that were not romantic or sexual. She said, “Oh, wow. Um, my apologies. This is on me. I have been a bit

limited in my answers because I was speaking from a male-only perspective. It didn't even occur to me that you were including women as well. Because usually when we describe domestic abuse, it's usually like a romantic relationship. So my mind went to romantic relationships and not even like in general. So in general I need to increase that number from three to about...I would say...so the initial number of ten goes up to 14 or 15. And same for the number of people who actually threatened me. It's now six." Another respondent made the same mistake. When he heard ST11_01B (How did you know this person?) and saw the categories, he said, "Oh geez. I thought this was a relationship thing. We shouldn't backtrack. It's gonna take too much time. But if we're including family members, we can probably up that two to four to five or six. [Laughs.] I mean I just thought the whole premise of the study was for, like, relationships. I didn't know that it involved family members too." Because respondents were told the name of the survey for which the questions were being tested (the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey), this may have helped frame the perceived intent of the questions as focusing exclusively on romantic and sexual relationships.

2. Rape

Questions on rape were divided into three sections, alcohol- and drug-facilitated rape, rape due to threats of harm or physical violence, and attempted (but unsuccessful) physically forced rape. Many questions contained explicit language and were difficult to discuss with respondents who had experienced these types of events in their life. As such, individual questions were not cognitively tested. Rather, the concepts embedded in the questions and in the instructions to each section were explored.

Definitions of consent

Notions of consent were explored, especially since sexual assault that occurs when a person is impaired may be thought of differently from physically forced sexual assault. Each section had its own introduction that was meant to guide respondents in terms of what experiences should be included in their answers. The introduction to the section on alcohol- and drug-facilitated rape was as follows:

This next section is about unwanted sex or sexual contact, that is, sexual contact that you did not consent to and that you did not want to happen. Sometimes unwanted sex or sexual contact happens when a person is unable to consent to it or stop it from happening because they are too drunk, high, drugged, or passed out from alcohol, drugs, or medications. This can include times when they voluntarily consumed alcohol or drugs or times when they were given alcohol or drugs without their knowledge or consent. You might or might not have ever been in this type of situation. Please remember that even if someone uses alcohol or drugs, what happens to them is not their fault. These questions use detailed and explicit language so that everyone is clear about what the questions are asking.

The introduction to the section on rape due to threats of harm or physical violence was somewhat shorter, but still emphasized the concept of consent. It read:

Some people are threatened with harm or physically forced to have sex or sexual contact when they don't want to. Examples of physical force are being pinned or held down, using violence or threats of violence, or not physically stopping after you said no. To be clear, the next questions are asking only about times in your life when sex was unwanted and you did not give consent.

Respondents were asked about their experiences and how they viewed the idea of consent in relation to those experiences. Some respondents had very clear notions of consent but for others consent was more nuanced.

Consent is straightforward: For some respondents consent is verbal and direct – no means no. There was no gray area. Examples of respondents with this definition include:

"Oh, no. See, me? I have a strong, firm no. When no means no."

"I said no -- I'm not trying to do that. No means no."

"No. No means no. This right here explains how I was brought up. No means no. This is your temple; this is your body. You control what comes in, who you invite to see it."

"It means all the way yes. Or no. Like you are giving permission for something, and it means the whole time something's going on."

"Like my boyfriend now. He can sometimes be so annoying and just begging you and begging you. Like what the hell? And you go ahead and do it. That's still consent. But when you tell a person no means no and if they forcefully do whatever, that's not consent because I said no. If you do something to me once I say no, now you have gone over to the rape side."

Forced 'consent': The respondent in the last example demonstrates how the concept of consent can sometimes be less than straightforward. In theory consent can mean 'no is no,' but in practice lines may become blurred. For example, some respondents reported finding themselves in situations that made acquiescing to unwanted sex safer than continuing to resist. This came up in the section on unwanted sex due to threats of harm or physical force. In considering what experiences to include, some respondents asked for clarification because of the nebulous nature of consent in practice. For example, one respondent asked, "Can it be non-verbal? If they pin you down and you don't want it? I was trying to push him off...but he was too strong..." The interviewer repeated the question. She decided to include the experience because the sex was unwanted and because she did physically convey her lack of permission even though she did not recall verbally saying 'no.' She said, "Yeah -- one. Because I clearly [didn't want it] and he just kept [on]. Yes." Another respondent answered 'yes' thinking about her husband's insistence. She said, "So definitely he'll kind of force me to have it." When asked if she continues to resist, she said, "I tried it [resisting], but definitely he overwhelms me and at the end of it all I just give in." This respondent ultimately 'consented' instead of continuing to fight, but she did not include this as giving consent and, therefore, reported it as rape.

However, other respondents did not report as rape incidents where they ultimately gave in and 'consented' to unwanted sex. Sometimes this was because situations and the giving of consent are complicated. One respondent explained:

"In a separate incident [that she did not count in her answer] I was assaulted by an employee at my high school, and I was a student at the time. I was drinking and smoking weed, and I didn't smoke or drink so it affected me a little bit more. I initially agreed to have sex with one person. This person did a switch-a-roo while I was not aware. So I kind of turned around and was like who the hell is this? [A different person had entered the room and was having sex with her.]

But at that point I was like, now I'm trapped in this basement with two adult males and nobody knew where I was [so she went along with it rather than risk additional physical harm]."

Physical violence and consent: Some respondents had fairly literal interpretations of the questions in the section on rape due to threats of harm or physical violence. In other words, if physical violence did not occur, some respondents failed to report the experience as rape. For example, one respondent did not report an incident of unwanted sex because the perpetrator did not make her acquiesce through physical violence. However, at the same time it seems clear she did not freely give consent either. She said, "This is difficult because people have done these things, but I don't know if they always threatened [violence]...so, yeah. Let me think for a minute. I mean, I'm gonna say no because some of these people, they just did it without me wanting it, without threatening or doing anything [violent]." Another respondent also answered 'none' to FC01 (How many PEOPLE have ever used physical force or threats of physical harm to put their mouth on your vagina?) for the same reason – there was no actual violence that occurred. She said, "Mine was when I said 'no' they didn't stop. No, that's what happened to me. They didn't stop when I told them no. They kept doing it." These were examples where 'forced consent' was not reported as rape because additional physical violence did not occur.

Consent, married people, and men: The notion of consent can be contextually different for different groups of people. For example, several married (or formally married) respondents expressed how the rules of consent seem to be different in the context of marriage. Even if they defined their experience as unwanted sex, they were not sure it constituted rape – their husbands certainly did not define it as rape and respondents were not convinced that others would see these experiences as rape either. The following are examples of respondents who felt that their experiences would be interpreted through the lens of marriage:

"Being a wife and a husband there's some things that you don't have much control over. But what I'm saying is, he doesn't care even if I'm drunk and he wants it."

"I don't know if it's rape, because I'm married, so I don't consider it as rape. I don't know what they would say back in those days, if it was considered rape or no. But he would just, you know, insist because we was married he had a right to do this."

"Um, it's very traumatic. I'll say you feel, you know, powerless. You feel like you don't have anyone to tell, it's embarrassing. No one will look at it as rape or forced sex because you've been intimate with this person [her husband] before."

Two of those respondents included their experiences as rape, but one did not, suggesting that married people may underreport these experiences.

A couple of male respondents also experienced unwanted sex but, when the perpetrator was a female, their understandings of the experience were not necessarily identical to their female counterparts. Much like the married women above, defining unwanted sex as rape may not be intuitive to men and these types of experiences may go unreported. For example, in the made-to-penetrate questions, one respondent was unsure about and uncomfortable with reporting that someone had put their mouth on his penis without his consent. He said, "Uh...I guess put zero for that, too." Because of his hesitation, the interviewer asked if there was ever a situation where he could possibly answer yes. He said, "Yeah, yeah, yeah. I mean pretty much [inaudible]." When asked more explicitly if there was ever a time when he did not want sex but someone forced him into it, he said, "I mean, a couple of times. But like the way

they're [the survey] describing it, it's just like, gosh, I'm trying to figure out how to describe [his experience] off what they're describing off of and all. Gosh. That's extreme." [Laughs uncomfortably.] It was clear that he never thought of himself as being sexually assaulted and it made him very uncomfortable to talk about it in those terms.

Another male respondent answered 'zero' to all the questions in the rape sections because he had never thought of himself as being sexually assaulted. He said, "Yeah, I've never had anyone harm me or threaten me for sex, to give them sex. Um, so that's never been the case. Yeah, that's never been the case – where I felt threatened or harmed by the interaction or a call for action. That has never taken place." His answer seems unequivocal. However, when he gets to the questions in the physical violence section – toward the end of the interview – his story changes dramatically, perhaps because the question was disassociated from sexual violence. The question, PV07, was: 'How many of your current or ex-partners have ever slammed you against something?' In answering this question, he explained:

"When I was in college, this young lady that I was just—we were just kind of a hook-up thing. She did slam me against the wall one day and threatened sex. She threatened me that I better have sex with her. And then, my ex-girlfriend, she also would slam me against stuff, uh, when she wanted sex. So, you know. But I didn't see it as—it wasn't—it was all—you know—it—it—in my mind I could have seen it as a—as being minute, a minute detail, 'cause—but they used physical aggression towards me [expels air in a sort of half-laugh] in-in-in a—in an attempt to get what they wanted so that was [raises eyebrows]. Yeah, wow. I was assaulted. [Looks surprised, then incredulous.] No, I'm not going to say I was assaulted. But that was—that was—that was forced to—that was physical force to—that was physical force, yeah. That was physical force. Those two times that I know of in my life."

If men are less likely to process what happens to them as rape or sexual assault, they may be unlikely to report these experiences in a survey.

Alcohol- and drug-facilitated rape

Questions on alcohol- and drug-facilitated rape were asked before the section on rape due to threats or use of physical force. These questions are long and contain many concepts. For example, the first question in the series, AD01, reads: 'When you were unable to consent to sex or stop it from happening because you were too drunk, high, drugged, or passed out from alcohol or drugs, how many PEOPLE ever did the following when you did not want them to...? Put their mouth on your vagina? If this has never happened or you have never been drunk or drugged, choose None or Not Applicable.' This is quite a bit of information to cognitively process, and respondents were not always successful in doing so. The reasons why are discussed next.

Double-barreled: The questions on alcohol- and drug-facilitated rape function as double-barreled questions when it has not been established that a respondent has ever been sexually assaulted in the first place. Despite the last sentence which aims to correct that problem ('If this has never happened or you have never been drunk or drugged, choose None or Not Applicable.'), some respondents were still confused. As a result, answers had inconsistent meanings.

Table 2 breaks down the logic of different interpretations and answers, and visually represents the cognitive complexity of the questions. For example, an answer of 'no' can mean: 1) they were never

raped and never drunk/drugged, or 2) they were never raped but were drunk/drugged, or 3) they were raped but were not drunk/drugged.

Answers of 'yes' are also potentially problematic. Some answers of 'yes' mean what they are intended to mean – that a respondent was raped while they were drunk or drugged. However, other answers of 'yes' mean that a rape occurred but not with the involvement of alcohol or drugs. Not knowing that the next section asks about rape due to threats of harm or physical violence, some respondents who were raped under *any* circumstances answered this question affirmatively in order to register their experience. As a result, the next section of the survey (on rape due to threats or use of physical force) is repetitive because in their mind they just answered those questions.

From a practical perspective, the most problematic cell in Table 2 is the one where answers of 'yes' and 'no' share the same cell. The confusion stems from the manner in which respondents interpret the primary intent of the questions in this section. This pattern is discussed next.

Table 2: Meaning of yes/no answers for alcohol- and drug-facilitated rape questions		
	Raped	Not raped
Have been drunk/drugged	Yes	No
Never been drunk/drugged	No/Yes	No

Question intent = *any* type of sexual assault: The section ordering combined with the length of the alcohol- and drug-facilitated rape questions caused several problems. First, some respondents were thinking of any type of sexual assault when answering this question and did not focus on the impairment aspect. For example, one respondent answered 'yes' to AD05 (When you were unable to consent to sex or stop it from happening because you were too drunk, high, drugged, or passed out from alcohol or drugs, how many PEOPLE ever did the following when you did not want them to...? Put their fingers or an object in your anus?). But during probing when asked if there was ever a time when someone sexually assaulted him when he was under the influence, he said no. Initially he was thinking of an assault that occurred by his uncle – without the use of any alcohol or drugs. The intent of the question in his mind was whether someone had assaulted him in this particular manner, not whether he was impaired when it happened. Similarly, another person also answered 'yes' at first, but when she heard additional questions in the section she answered 'no' and said, "I wasn't high, it was just against my will." Initially she was focused only on the fact that she had been sexually assaulted.

Other respondents heard the inclusion of drunk/drugged in the question, but – not realizing the next section was coming – wanted to clarify their answer if they had been raped without being impaired. For example, one respondent said, "It's none. But I need to add there that I wasn't intoxicated or inebriated. But it did happen. I was not inebriated. I was conscious, but it did happen to me." When asked what happened, she said, "Sexually. They had intercourse but it was not consented. They were inebriated but I was not. And I kept saying no and they did it anyway."

Like the previous respondent, several other respondents did not demonstrate response error but did need to clarify that the question was asking about times they were under the influence of alcohol or drugs during a sexual assault and not the perpetrator. One respondent asked, "You're saying while I was drunk something that I didn't want to happen?" The interviewer repeated the question. "None that I'm aware of." Another respondent also asked, "So we're talking about me having these situations? So this is a situation where I was taken advantage of -- I was not the user. Somebody else I encountered, who I trusted, had had one too many drinks."

Based on these responses, it's possible that if these two sections were reversed, that is questions on rape due to threats or use of physical force are asked *before* alcohol- and drug-facilitated rape, many of these problems might be alleviated.

3. Physical Violence

Two questions in particular were the focus of this section, PV09 (How many of your current or ex-partners have ever used a knife on you?) and PV10 (How many of your current or ex-partners have ever used a gun on you?). There were two types of interpretations of these questions: actual use of a weapon and threats of use.

Actual use: Some respondents understood these questions as asking about the actual use of a weapon on them – that is, being literally stabbed or shot by a partner. For example, when asked what he was thinking, one respondent said, "Using it to cause harm. Like physical harm to your physical person. Whether someone physically stabbed you or pulled the trigger, released a bullet into your body or at your body. Or used the weapon, used the gun itself as a weapon to physically assault my person." Another respondent answered 'no' and explained, "The most he might have said was 'I'm going to shoot you.' But there was never a weapon pulled on me. But he wrote on a piece of paper or text that he was going to shoot me...And there had been conversations where he said I'm going to do this to you and I'm going to do that to you." Another respondent who answered 'no' conveyed a similar interpretation. He said, "Plenty of times but it [getting shot] never happened." He was thinking of an ex-girlfriend. When asked why he did not include this experience he said, "Because I didn't really receive that blunt force of that bullet. It was just threats, saying she'll utilize it, but she never did."

Threats of use: Other respondents invoked broader notions of 'use,' to include threats. The following are examples of the rationale respondents gave for their answers.

"Whether they threaten you with it from a distance or try to stab you. If you brought a knife out -- nobody has done that to me." [The same rationale was used for a gun.] "They can just pull it out. They don't have to physically shoot you. And they don't even have to pull it out. They can pull up their shirt and just show me that they have a gun."

"I was thinking literal -- they had a physical gun or knife on them."

"I think more they have a knife on them and they're like, I'll flick it out and if you don't -- same thing with a weapon [gun]. Brandishing it."

"They threatened to stab me."

"I interpreted the question as how many people have attempted or threatened to use a knife on me. Probably either by showing it or even trying to do it, even if they didn't do it."

"They aimed it -- that's why I said I was completely nervous."

"Yeah, so um, I had told him that I wanted a divorce and he had pulled a gun on me. Um, so yeah that's pretty much how it went."

One case illustrates that some experiences may not be easy to classify because both parties can engage in violent behavior. This respondent answered 'yes' to the question but clarified that it was her knife that she retrieved in order to defend herself against domestic violence. Even though she was the one who introduced the knife into the situation, she answered 'yes' because her boyfriend ended up using it against her. She said:

"But I had a knife that a friend of mine had given me. And I grabbed the knife as a I ran and I got to the door. And I realized I can't go out the door. I have no clothes on. So I stood there. And he came to me and I kept telling him don't come any closer. I don't know what was wrong with him that day...I'm standing there with my back to the door and he grabbed the knife and we started tussling over that knife. And the knife cut the tendon in my ring finger on my left hand."

4. Technology-Facilitated Violence

Two questions related to technology-facilitated violence were tested. The first question (TF_01) is: 'In your lifetime, has anyone ever sent you an unwanted sexually explicit message or image through the internet, social media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram), email, or text message without your consent? Please do not include spam messages.'

The intent of this question was unclear. The last sentence asks respondents to exclude 'spam messages.' However, certain experiences with social media made the definition of spam rather vague. Respondents tended to include sexually explicit messages received from people known, barely known, *and* unknown. In social media the line between known and unknown has become somewhat blurred due to, for example, the phenomenon of 'friending.' One respondent heard the question and asked, "Okay, let me ask you. That's a tricky question. So say someone sends you a friend request on Facebook. You don't know him, he don't know you, and when he sends you a friend request you accept it. You don't have no type of conversation with this guy or anything, but he's constantly sending naked pictures through the Internet." The interviewer said it was her judgment call and repeated the question. The respondent chose to answer 'yes.' Another respondent heard the question and laughed. She said, "That happens in my everyday life! It happened yesterday." Are these people you know? "No. It can be social media. People can send you -- they don't even have to know you. You don't even have to be friends with them. I think it's because people can look at your social media and see what you got going on." A second respondent gave a similar reply. She said, "I mean, you're counting social media and that is out of control. I get solicited every day from men and women."

The above respondents were talking about Facebook; however, Facebook is not the only source of social media that can cause confusion. WhatsApp was also mentioned, and several respondents referred to dating apps as well. One respondent said, "Someone sent me a text message and it was just one of those dating apps where people are trying to meet people. And this man kept texting me and I said I don't have an interest in meeting you. And he was sending me explicit questions about my personal life." Another respondent laughed when she heard the question. She said, "I'm laughing because isn't that like 3/4 of online dating? I mean these aren't people that I engaged in any communication with past them being like, 'looking for a good time?' No. I'm looking for a free dinner!" [Laughs.]

In addition to including unwanted sexually explicit messages from people respondents do not know (or barely know), some respondents also included these types of messages that were sent by the stalkers they reported in the stalking section. For this subgroup of respondents, this question (TF_01) captured the same information as questions ST05 (Has anyone ever made unwanted phone calls to you, sent you

emails, voice, or text messages?) and ST06 (Has anyone ever sent you unwanted messages through social media, such as Facebook, Instagram, and chat rooms?). This further illustrates the interconnectedness of the survey topics and the difficulty in asking about them as discrete and separate events, particularly when they are done by the same individual.

The second question tested in this section, TF_02, was: 'In your lifetime, has anyone ever emailed, texted, or electronically posted a revealing or sexual photo or video of you without your consent?' Most respondents admitted that this was not something they would be able to know with certainty. This made the question more difficult by introducing an extra judgment step – respondents must decide whether to include or exclude answers about which they are unsure. Some who were uncertain decided to answer 'yes.' For example, even though one respondent had no proof that anyone had done this, she was reasonably sure that it has happened. Her first response was, "Probably. But I don't know about it specifically." The interviewer repeated the question and asked if she could answer yes or no. "I would choose -- I mean more than likely. That could be anything from me in a bikini thong. So you know. Most definitely. Then there's the whole revenge porn thing. I'm sure I have an ex [who's done that to her]. I'm not someone who avoids the camera. I have taken explicit photos willingly." However, other respondents chose to answer 'no' if they had no proof. One respondent answered 'no' and explained, "Not with me knowing it...I don't know if they did post it, because I've never seen it." Another respondent also answered 'no' and said, "Actually the one that did bother me on social media, he did threaten to release a video. But not that I'm aware of that he did."

Sensitive and Difficult Questions

Finally, this report would be remiss in not addressing the impact of the subject matter on the scientific process. Due to the question topics, these were inordinately difficult interviews to conduct. Many respondents who never experienced sexual assault displayed a degree of shock or embarrassment at the bluntness of some of the questions, mostly those in the rape sections. Examples of outward reactions include:

"Whoa! That's a hell of a question!"

"Whoa! That's a hell—um I've never been sexually molested."

"How many people put their mouth on me??" [Expressing disbelief.]

Some respondents expressed their discomfort by commiserating with the interviewer. One said with sarcastic humor, "I hope you're going to a really fun happy hour later. They're like, what did you do today? Oh, nothing much..." [Laughs.] Similarly, another respondent said, "Wait. The question was, did they put their fingers in the anus?? Is that what you just said??" The interviewer confirmed. "Oh, Jesus." [Laughs nervously.] "I was like, wait a minute, did she REALLY just say that? Okay. I've never had that done before...You must be having a fun day today, asking that question."

The respondents above expressed surprise, discomfort, or embarrassment by the questions. However, others demonstrated more concerning reactions to the questions. As mentioned earlier, nine respondents displayed mild levels of distress during the interview and were subsequently emailed toll-free hotline numbers and web resources. The following are examples of the types of experiences respondents related during the interview and illustrate the types of memories and narratives respondents were required to recall and discuss:

"Well, it's opening me up. And as I speak to you, I'm trying to connect the dots here because it's been a long time ago. And it's something I thought I had rid myself of. And I've been seeing a psychiatrist and a therapist. But I still have these flare-ups and flashbacks I'll call them. Sometimes it's something on TV that will bring back a memory. So these wounds can be opened back up quite easily."

"Well, when I was a child I can remember my mother's brother, who is my uncle, used to fondle me when I was coming of age. When I didn't want any sexual contact he would force himself upon me in such a way that I was very fearful of him. And also hated him for it but at the same time too afraid to even let my mother know that her brother was doing this to me. So I was in that web."

"Oh! [Nervous laugh.] It's not funny, it's just surreal. Thinking about it as an older person. You ever look back on your life and all the times that you brushed with death? This gives very much those vibes. Wow."

"But when I wasn't interested in having sex he would say 'we're going to because we're married' and all this kind of stuff, you know? Then he would get crazy, want to hit me, you know [shaking head] and it was just out of control, it really was. Out of control. And like I said, if I had not left him, I really believe I wouldn't be here talking to you now."

Without skilled interviewers, the number of respondents experiencing emotional distress could have been larger than nine, and mild levels of distress could easily have escalated to moderate or extreme levels. Managing respondent emotions became a critical and central task of the interviewer and, as a result, many individual questions could not in good conscience be evaluated. This compromises scientific goals – a full cognitive assessment was not possible given ethical constraints. Moreover, this phenomenon draws into question the veracity of survey results as well. These respondent reactions and experiences suggest that serious thought should be given to the level of detail and amount of information truly necessary for research purposes when weighed against the level of distress that answering such questions imposes upon respondents.

APPENDIX: NISVIS Cognitive Interview Test Instrument

SECTION 1: DEMOGRAPHICS

First, how old are you? [NOT PROBED]

Age _____

[CF14] What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate?

Male	1
Female.....	2

[CF15] How do you describe your gender identity?

Male	1
Female.....	2
Male-to-female transgender.....	3
Female-to-male transgender	4
Other gender identity, specify	5

[CF18] Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino? [NOT PROBED]

Yes.....	1
No.....	2

[CF19] What is your race? You may identify more than one category. [NOT PROBED]

White.....	1
Black or African American.....	2
Asian.....	3
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	4
American Indian or Alaska Native.....	5
Other (Please specify _____)	6

[CF20] Are you now...? [NOT PROBED]

Married	1
Divorced	2
Separated.....	3
Widowed.....	4
Not married but living with a partner.....	5
Never married	6

SECTION 2: STALKING

The next set of questions asks about experiences that can directly impact your health or may have resulted in injury. The questions ask about physical injuries, harassing behaviors, and unwanted sexual activity.

First are some detailed questions about times in your life when someone may have ever given you unwanted attention by repeatedly contacting you, following you, or harassing you. When answering, please think about anyone who may have done these things to you; for example, a romantic or sexual partner, a family member, a friend, a teacher, a supervisor or a co-worker, a neighbor, someone you just met, or a stranger. Please DO NOT include someone following or contacting you as part of their job, such as bill collectors or sales people.

[ST01] Has anyone ever ...

... followed you around, watched, or spied on you when you did not want them to?

Yes..... 1

No..... 2

[ST02] ... approached you or showed up in places, such as your home, work, or school when you did not want them to?

Yes..... 1

No..... 2

[ST03] Has anyone ever ...

... used technology, such as hidden cameras, computer software, apps, or GPS (Global Positioning System) to monitor or track your location without your permission? This includes GPS used in a phone or on social media, such as Facebook. (We are talking about times when you knew or you thought someone was using GPS technology to monitor you.)

Yes..... 1

No..... 2

[ST04]... sneaked onto your property, such as your home or car, and did things to scare you by letting you know they had been there?

Yes..... 1

No..... 2

[ST05] Has anyone ever ...

... made unwanted phone calls to you, sent you emails, voice, or text messages? Please do not include bill collectors or telephone solicitors.

Yes..... 1

No..... 2

[ST06] ... sent you unwanted messages through social media, such as Facebook, Instagram, and chat rooms?

Yes..... 1
No..... 2

[ST07] ... sent you cards, letters, flowers, or presents when they knew you didn't want them to?

Yes..... 1
No..... 2

[IF 'NO' TO ALL, GO TO SECTION 3. OTHERWISE, CONTINUE.]

[ST08_01] You answered earlier that someone had...[FILL PREVIOUS ANSWERS] Has the same person done any of these things to you on more than one occasion?

Yes..... 1
No..... 2

[IF NO, GO TO SECTION 3.]

[ST08] How many people did any of these things to you on more than one occasion?

NUMBER OF PEOPLE _____

[ASK ST09A IF ONLY 1 PERSON IS REPORTED IN PREVIOUS QUESTION; IF MORE THAN 1, GO TO ST09]

[ST09A] Now, thinking ONLY about that person who followed, contacted or harassed you on more than one occasion, did he/she ever make you feel fearful, threatened, or concerned for your safety or the safety of others?

Yes..... 1
No..... 2

[ST10A] Still thinking about that person who followed, contacted or harassed you on more than one occasion, did he/she ever make threats to physically harm you? Please include ALL people who made threats to physically harm you EVEN IF you did not take the threat seriously or did not feel fearful, threatened, or concerned for your safety or the safety of others.

Yes..... 1
No..... 2

[IF ZERO TO BOTH, GO TO SECTION 3.]

[ST09] Now, thinking ONLY about the {FILL #} people who followed, contacted or harassed you on more than one occasion, how many of those people ever made you fearful, threatened, or concerned for your safety or the safety of others?

NUMBER OF PEOPLE _____

[ST10] Now, thinking ONLY about the {fill #} people who followed contacted or harassed you on more than one occasion, how many of those people ever made threats to physically harm you? Please include

ALL people who made threats to physically harm you EVEN IF you did not take the threat seriously or did not feel fearful, threatened, or concerned for your safety or the safety of others.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE_____

[IF ZERO TO BOTH, GO TO SECTION 3.]

[ST10_REVIEW] You said that...[READ THE NEXT 2 INTROS AS APPLICABLE]

[# OF PEOPLE] made you feel fearful, threatened, or concerned for your safety or the safety of others.

[AND]

[# OF PEOPLE] made threats to physically harm you.

In total, how many DIFFERENT people did these things to you?

NUMBER OF PEOPLE_____

PERSON 1: [REPEAT NEXT QUESTIONS FOR EACH PERSON REPORTED FOR STALKING]

[ST11_01] Only thinking about the (person/people) who...

- Followed, contacted, or harassed you on more than one occasion [AND]
 - [FILL AS APPROPRIATE FROM ST09 AND ST10:] made you feel fearful, threatened, or concerned for your safety or the safety of others / made threats to physically harm you.
- The [FIRST/SECOND/ETC.] time anyone did any of these things to you, was that person male or female?

Male 1
Female..... 2

[ST11_01B] [SHOW CARD] The [first/second/etc.] time this happened, how did you know this person?
Please choose a category that best describes how you knew the person.

1. Someone I was involved with romantically or sexually at the time
2. Someone I previously had been involved with romantically or sexually
3. A family member
4. A friend or acquaintance (e.g., neighbor, roommate, classmate, etc.)
5. Someone I knew through work (e.g., co-worker, boss/supervisor, client/customer/patient, etc.)
6. A person of authority (e.g., teacher, doctor, police officer, etc.)
7. Someone I knew less than 24 hours (e.g., taxi driver, someone met at party/bar)
8. A complete stranger
9. Someone else (Please specify:) _____

[ST11_01E] How old were you the [first/second/etc.] time this person did any of these things to you?

AGE_____

[ST11_01F] Still thinking about this person. Did {he/she} do {this/any of these things} within the past 12 months, that is since [FILL: DATE 12 MONTHS AGO]?

- Followed, contacted, or harassed you on more than one occasion [AND]

- [FILL AS APPROPRIATE: made you feel fearful, threatened, or concerned for your safety or the safety of others / made threats to physically harm you].

Yes..... 1
No..... 2

[IF 'YES' **AND** PERSON IS NOT A FAMILY MEMBER, ASK NEXT QUESTION.

ELSE IF 'NO' TO THE PREVIOUS QUESTION **OR** PERSON WAS A FAMILY MEMBER GO TO SECTION 3.]

[ST11_01G] Just to confirm, this person was still [FILL RELATIONSHIP] when [he/she did {this/any of these things} to you in the past 12 months. Is that correct?

Yes..... 1
No..... 2

[IF NO, ASK ST11_01H]

[ST11_01H] [SHOW CARD] How did you know {him/her} when {he/she} did these things to you in the past 12 months?

1. Someone I was involved with romantically or sexually at the time
2. Someone I previously had been involved with romantically or sexually
3. A family member
4. A friend or acquaintance (e.g., neighbor, roommate, classmate, etc.)
5. Someone I knew through work (e.g., co-worker, boss/supervisor, client/customer/patient, etc.)
6. A person of authority (e.g., teacher, doctor, police officer, etc.)
7. Someone I knew less than 24 hours (e.g., taxi driver, someone met at party/bar)
8. A complete stranger
9. Someone else (Please specify:) _____

SECTION 3: COMPLETED ALCOHOL/DRUG-FACILITATED RAPE AND MADE TO PENETRATE

[AD_INTRO1] This next section is about unwanted sex or sexual contact, that is, sexual contact that you did not consent to and that you did not want to happen.

Sometimes unwanted sex or sexual contact happens when a person is unable to consent to it or stop it from happening because they are too drunk, high, drugged, or passed out from alcohol, drugs, or medications. This can include times when they voluntarily consumed alcohol or drugs or times when they were given alcohol or drugs without their knowledge or consent. You might or might not have ever been in this type of situation. Please remember that even if someone uses alcohol or drugs, what happens to them is not their fault. These questions use detailed and explicit language so that everyone is clear about what the questions are asking.

[ASK IF **FEMALE**; IF R IS **MALE**, SKIP TO AD05.]

[AD01] When you were unable to consent to sex or stop it from happening because you were too drunk, high, drugged, or passed out from alcohol or drugs, how many PEOPLE ever did the following when you did not want them to...?

Put their mouth on your vagina? If this has never happened or you have never been drunk or drugged, choose None or Not Applicable.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE _____

[AD02] Put their fingers or an object in your vagina or anus?

NUMBER OF PEOPLE _____

[AD03] When you were unable to consent to sex or stop it from happening because you were too drunk, high, drugged, or passed out from alcohol or drugs, how many MALES ever did the following when you did not want them to...?

Put their penis in your vagina?

NUMBER OF MALES _____

[AD04] Put their penis in your mouth or anus?

NUMBER OF MALES _____

[IF R IS **MALE**, ASK AD05 THROUGH AD08. **FEMALES** GO TO AD09.]

[AD05] When you were unable to consent to sex or stop it from happening because you were too drunk, high, drugged, or passed out from alcohol or drugs, how many PEOPLE ever did the following when you did not want them to...

Put their fingers or an object in your anus? (If this has never happened or you have never been drunk or drugged, choose None/Not Applicable.)

NUMBER OF PEOPLE _____

[AD06] Put their mouth on your penis or make you put your penis in their mouth? (If this has never happened or you have never been drunk or drugged, choose None/Not Applicable.)

NUMBER OF PEOPLE _____

[AD07] When you were unable to consent to sex or stop it from happening because you were too drunk, high, drugged, or passed out from alcohol or drugs, how many FEMALES ever did the following when you did not want them to...

...made you put your penis in their vagina? (READ IF NECESSARY: If this has never happened or you have never been drunk or drugged, choose None/Not Applicable.)

NUMBER OF FEMALES _____

[AD08] When you were unable to consent to sex or stop it from happening because you were too drunk, high, drugged, or passed out from alcohol or drugs, how many MALES ever did the following when you did not want them to ...

...put their penis in your mouth or anus?

NUMBER OF MALES _____

[AD09] The next two questions are about your exposure to alcohol or drugs. Thinking about the times when {this one behavior / any of these things} happened to you when you were unable to consent to sex or stop it from happening ...

... do you think you were ever given alcohol without your knowledge?

Yes..... 1
No..... 2

[AD10] ... do you think you were ever given other drugs without your knowledge?

Yes..... 1
No..... 2

[AD11_REVIEW] You answered earlier that, when you were unable to consent to sex or stop it from happening because you were too drunk, high, drugged, or passed out from alcohol or drugs...

In total, how many DIFFERENT people did any of these things to you?

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE _____

PERSON 1: [ASK NEXT QUESTIONS FOR EACH PERSON.]

[AD11_01] Think about the [FIRST / SECOND / ETC.] time anyone EVER did any of the following to you when you were unable to consent to sex or stop it from happening, because you were too drunk, high, drugged, or passed out from alcohol or drugs...

[FOR **FEMALE** RESPONDENTS, FILL AS RELEVANT: Put their mouth on your vagina / Put their fingers or an object in your vagina or anus

[IF **MALE** RESPONDENTS, FILL AS RELEVANT: Put their fingers or an object in your anus

...Was this person male or female?

Male 1
Female..... 2

[AD11_01B] Think about the [FIRST / SECOND / ETC.] time anyone EVER did any of the following to you when you were unable to consent to sex or stop it from happening, because you were too drunk, high, drugged, or passed out from alcohol or drugs...

[**SHOW CARD**] The {first/second/etc.} time this happened, how did you know this person? Please choose a category that best describes how you knew the person.

1. Someone I was involved with romantically or sexually at the time
2. Someone I previously had been involved with romantically or sexually
3. A family member
4. A friend or acquaintance (e.g., neighbor, roommate, classmate, etc.)

5. Someone I knew through work (e.g., co-worker, boss/supervisor, client/customer/patient, etc.)
6. A person of authority (e.g., teacher, doctor, police officer, etc.)
7. Someone I knew less than 24 hours (e.g., taxi driver, someone met at party/bar)
8. A complete stranger
9. Someone else (Please specify:) _____

[AD11_01E] How old were you the {first/second/etc.} time this person did any of these things to you?

AGE _____

[AD11_01F] Still thinking about this person. Did {he/she} do {this/any of these things} within the past 12 months, that is since [DATE 12 MONTHS AGO]?

[FOR **FEMALE** RESPONDENTS, FILL AS RELEVANT: Put {his/her} mouth on your vagina / Put {his/her} their fingers or an object in your vagina or anus / Put his penis in your vagina / Put his penis in your mouth or anus

[FOR **MALE** RESPONDENTS, FILL AS RELEVANT: Put {his/her} fingers or an object in your anus / Put his penis in your mouth or anus

...when you were unable to consent to sex or stop it from happening, because you were too drunk, high, drugged, or passed out from alcohol or drugs?

Yes..... 1
No..... 2

[IF 'YES' **AND** PERSON IS NOT A FAMILY MEMBER, ASK NEXT QUESTION.

ELSE IF 'NO' TO THE PREVIOUS QUESTION **OR** PERSON WAS A FAMILY MEMBER GO TO SECTION 4.]

[AD11_01G] Just to confirm, this person was still [FILL RELATIONSHIP] when {he/she} did {this/any of these things} to you in the past 12 months. Is that correct?

Yes..... 1
No..... 2

[IF NO ASK AD11_01H. IF YES, GO TO SECTION 4.]

[AD11_01H] How did you know {him/her} when {he/she} did these things to you in the past 12 months?

1. Someone I was involved with romantically or sexually at the time
2. Someone I previously had been involved with romantically or sexually
3. A family member
4. A friend or acquaintance (e.g., neighbor, roommate, classmate, etc.)
5. Someone I knew through work (e.g., co-worker, boss/supervisor, client/customer/patient, etc.)
6. A person of authority (e.g., teacher, doctor, police officer, etc.)
7. Someone I knew less than 24 hours (e.g., taxi driver, someone met at party/bar)
8. A complete stranger
9. Someone else (Please specify:) _____

SECTION 4: UNWANTED SEX DUE TO THREATS OF HARM/PHYSICAL FORCE

[FC_INTRO1] Some people are threatened with harm or physically forced to have sex or sexual contact when they don't want to. Examples of physical force are being pinned or held down, using violence or threats of violence, or not physically stopping after you said no. To be clear, the next questions are asking only about times in your life when sex was unwanted and you did not give consent.

[IF R IS **FEMALE**, ASK FC01. IF R IS **MALE** GO TO FC05.]

[FC01] How many PEOPLE have ever used physical force or threats of physical harm to ...

...put their mouth on your vagina? Examples of physical force are being pinned or held down, using violence or threats of violence, or not physically stopping after you said no.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE _____

[FC02] ... put their fingers or an object in your vagina or anus?

NUMBER OF PEOPLE _____

[FC03] How many MALES have ever used physical force or threats of physical harm to ...
... put their penis in your vagina? Examples of physical force are being pinned or held down, using violence or threats of violence, or not physically stopping after you said no.

NUMBER OF MALES _____

[FC04] ... put their penis in your mouth or anus?

NUMBER OF MALES _____

[IF R IS **MALE**, ASK FC05.]

[FC05] How many PEOPLE have ever used physical force or threats of physical harm to ...
... put their fingers or an object in your anus? (Examples of physical force are being pinned or held down, using violence or threats of violence, or not physically stopping after you said no.)

NUMBER OF PEOPLE _____

[FC06] ... put their mouth on your penis, or make you put your penis in their mouth?

NUMBER OF PEOPLE _____

[FC07] How many FEMALES have ever used physical force or threats of physical harm to make you put your penis in their vagina? (Examples of physical force are being pinned or held down, using violence or threats of violence, or not physically stopping after you said no.)

NUMBER OF FEMALES _____

[FC08] How many MALES have ever used physical force or threats of physical harm to put their penis in your mouth or anus?

NUMBER OF MALES _____

[FC09_REVIEW]

[FOR **FEMALE** RESPONDENTS: You answered earlier that, using physical force or threats of harm...

[{a person / # people} put {his/her} / their mouth on your vagina / put {their/his or her} fingers or an object in your vagina or anus / put {their/his} penis in your vagina / {their/his} penis in your mouth or anus

[FOR **MALE** RESPONDENTS: You answered earlier that, using physical force or threats of harm...

[{a person / # people} put {their/his or her} fingers or an object in your anus / put {their/his} penis in your mouth or anus

In total, how many DIFFERENT people did any of these things to you?

NUMBER OF PEOPLE _____

PERSON 1: [REPEAT THE NEXT QUESTIONS FOR EACH PERSON MENTIONED]

[ASK THE NEXT QUESTIONS IF: R IS **MALE** AND ANSWERED YES FOR OBJECTS IN ANUS;

IF R IS **FEMALE** AND ANSWERED YES FOR MOUTH ON VAGINA OR OBJECT IN VAGINA/ANUS;

ELSE GO TO FC09_02 INTRO]

[FC09_01] Think about the [FIRST / SECOND / ETC.] time anyone EVER did any of the following to you using physical force or threats of harm...

(**FEMALE** RESPONDENTS, READ AS RELEVANT: put his or her mouth on your vagina / put his or her fingers or an object in your vagina or anus

(**MALE** RESPONDENTS, READ AS RELEVANT: put his/her fingers or an object in your anus

Was this person male or female?

Male 1

Female..... 2

[FC09_02 INTRO] Think about the [first/second/etc.] time anyone EVER did any of the following to you using physical force or threats of harm...

[FC09_02] [**SHOW CARD**] The {first/second/etc.} time this happened, how did you know this person?

Please choose a category that best describes how you knew the person.

1. Someone I was involved with romantically or sexually at the time
2. Someone I previously had been involved with romantically or sexually
3. A family member
4. A friend or acquaintance (e.g., neighbor, roommate, classmate, etc.)
5. Someone I knew through work (e.g., co-worker, boss/supervisor, client/customer/patient, etc.)
6. A person of authority (e.g., teacher, doctor, police officer, etc.)
7. Someone I knew less than 24 hours (e.g., taxi driver, someone met at party/bar)
8. A complete stranger
9. Someone else (Please specify:) _____

[FC09_01E] How old were you the {first/second/etc.} time this person did any of these things to you?

AGE _____

[FC09_01F] Still thinking about this person. Did {he/she} do {this/any of these things} within the past 12 months, that is since [FILL: DATE 12 MONTHS AGO]?

Yes..... 1
No..... 2

[IF 'YES' **AND** PERSON IS NOT A FAMILY MEMBER, ASK NEXT QUESTION.
ELSE **FEMALES** GO TO NEXT SECTION; **MALES** GO TO SKIP BEFORE FC_INTRO2.]

[FC09_01G] Just to confirm, this person was still [FILL RELATIONSHIP] when {he/she} did {this/any of these things} to you in the past 12 months. Is that correct?

Yes..... 1
No..... 2

[IF NO ASK FC09_01H. ELSE GO TO FC09_02.]

[FC09_01H] How did you know {him/her} when {he/she} did these things to you in the past 12 months?

1. Someone I was involved with romantically or sexually at the time
2. Someone I previously had been involved with romantically or sexually
3. A family member
4. A friend or acquaintance (e.g., neighbor, roommate, classmate, etc.)
5. Someone I knew through work (e.g., co-worker, boss/supervisor, client/customer/patient, etc.)
6. A person of authority (e.g., teacher, doctor, police officer, etc.)
7. Someone I knew less than 24 hours (e.g., taxi driver, someone met at party/bar)
8. A complete stranger
9. Someone else (Please specify:) _____

[FC09_02] Think about the {person / people} who...

[FOR **FEMALE** RESPONDENTS, FILL AS RELEVANT: Put {his or her/their} mouth on your vagina / Put {his or her/their} fingers or an object in your vagina or anus / Put {his/their} penis in your vagina / Put {his/their} penis in your mouth or anus]

[IF **MALE** RESPONDENTS, FILL AS RELEVANT: put {his or her/their} fingers or an object in your anus / put {his/their} penis in your mouth or anus.]

...using physical force or threats of harm in the past 12 mos, that is since [DATE 12 MOS AGO].
How many times in total did {this / these things} happen to you in the past 12 months? [READ IF NECESSARY: "In total" refers to your combined experiences across all of the people who did {this / these things} to you in the past 12 months.]

NUMBER OF TIMES IN PAST 12 MOS. _____

[ASK NEXT Q'S **ONLY** TO MALES WHO WERE **MADE TO PENETRATE BY FORCE**.
OTHERS GO TO SECTION 5]

[FC17_REVIEW] You answered earlier that...

[{People/ A person} put {their/his or her} mouth on your penis, or made you put your penis in {their/his or her} mouth / {females/a female} made you put your penis in her vagina]

...using physical force or threats of harm.

In total, how many DIFFERENT people did any of these things to you?

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE _____

SECTION 5: ATTEMPTED PHYSICALLY FORCED SEX

[FA_INTRO1] The next set of questions are about times in your life when someone ever ATTEMPTED to have sex or sexual contact with you by using physical force or threats of harm but sex did NOT happen. Examples of physical force are being pinned or held down, using violence or threats of violence, or not physically stopping after you said no. To be clear, we are now asking only about times when sex was unwanted and you did not give consent, and sex did not happen.

[ASK IF **FEMALE**. IF **MALE**, GO TO FA02.]

[FA01] How many MALES have ever used physical force or threats of physical harm to TRY to put their penis in your vagina, mouth, or anus, but it DID NOT happen?

NUMBER OF MALES _____

[ASK IF **MALE**]

[FA02] How many PEOPLE have ever used physical force or threats of physical harm to TRY to put their mouth on your penis, or TRY to make you put your penis in their mouth, but it did not happen?

NUMBER OF PEOPLE _____

[FA03] How many FEMALES have ever used physical force or threats of physical harm to TRY to make you put your penis in their vagina, but it DID NOT happen?

NUMBER OF FEMALES _____

SECTION 6: PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

[PV_INTRO1] The next questions are related to physical acts you may have experienced with your current or ex-romantic or sexual partners.

[PV07] How many of your current or ex-partners have ever ...
... slammed you against something?

NUMBER OF PARTNERS _____

[PV08] ... tried to hurt you by choking or suffocating you?

NUMBER OF PARTNERS _____

[PV09] How many of your current or ex-partners have ever ...

... used a knife on you?

NUMBER OF PARTNERS _____

[PV10] ... used a gun on you?

NUMBER OF PARTNERS _____

SECTION 7: TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE

[TF_01] In your lifetime, has anyone ever sent you an unwanted sexually explicit message or image through the internet, social media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram), email, or text message without your consent? Please do not include spam messages.

Yes..... 1
No..... 2

[TF_02] In your lifetime, has anyone ever emailed, texted, or electronically posted a revealing or sexual photo or video of you without your consent?

Yes..... 1
No..... 2