National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) Knowledge Corner: *Item nonresponse*

America's principal source for criminal justice statistics

Nonresponse in the NCVS

1. Household nonresponse

2. Person nonresponse

3. Item nonresponse

Types of item nonresponse

- Residue

- Out of universe

- Item invalid until

- Item invalid after

Residue

- A **residue** nonresponse occurs when there is an out of range, unusable, or blank entry.

- Census may recode residue into a valid code.

- Coded as 8, 98, or 998.

Out of universe

- An **out of universe** nonresponse occurs due to a question being skipped because of the survey skip pattern.

- That question does not apply to the respondent.

- Coded as a 9 or series of 9s.

Item invalid until YYYY Q#

- An **item invalid until** nonresponse occurs when a question added to the NCVS.

- Respondents were no longer in the sample when the question was added.

- Coded as-1

Item invalid after YYYY Q#

- An **item invalid after** nonresponse occurs when a question is removed from the NCVS.

- Respondents not asked a question because the question was dropped before they were in the sample.
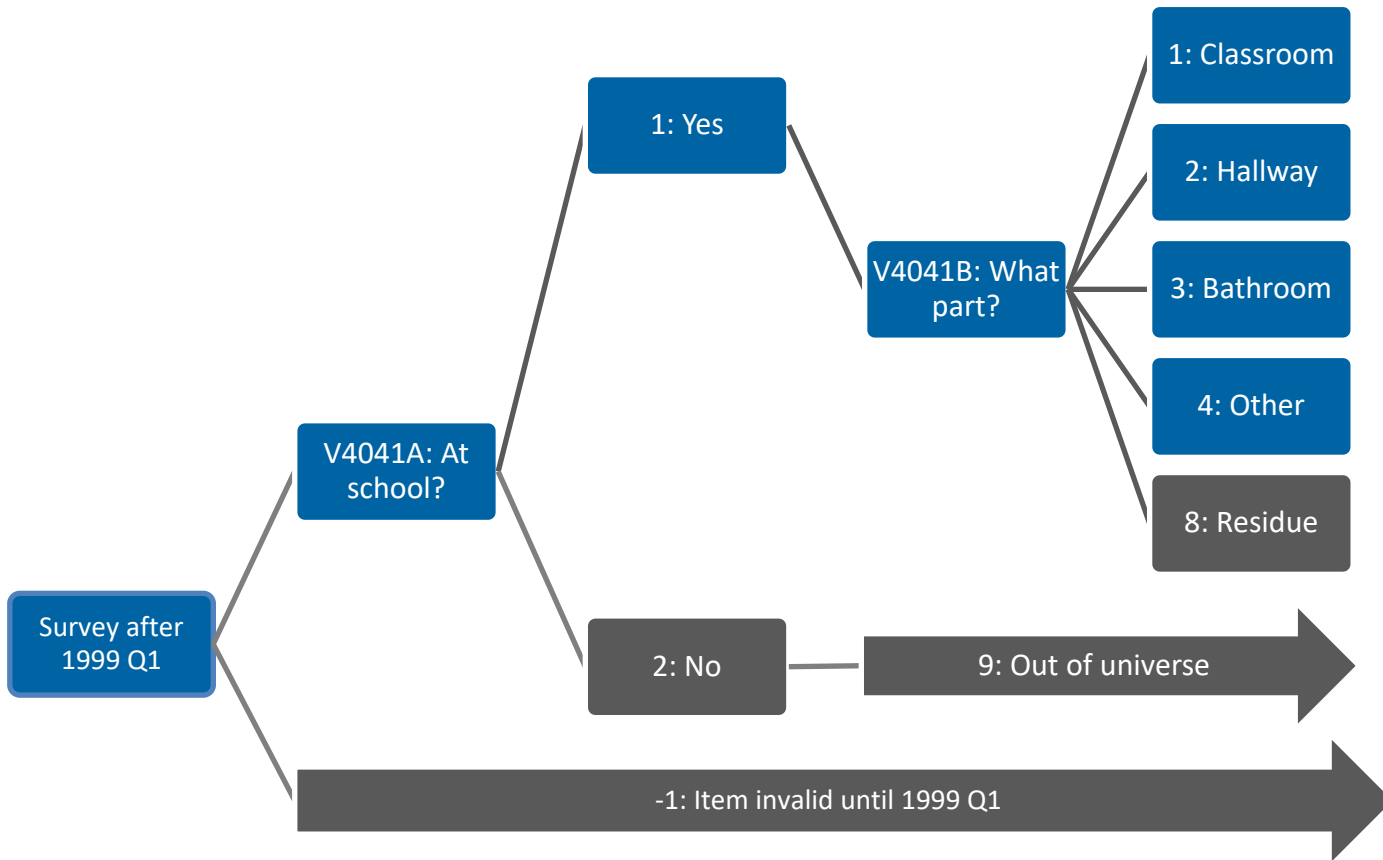
- Coded as -2.

Refused/don't know

- Respondents may **refuse** to answer a question or say they **don't know** a response.

- Not considered missing by NCVS.

- May be treated as residue.

Survey after 1999 Q1

V4041A: At school?
- 1: Yes → V4041B: What part?
  - 1: Classroom
  - 2: Hallway
  - 3: Bathroom
  - 4: Other
  - 8: Residue
- 2: No → 9: Out of universe

-1: Item invalid until 1999 Q1

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Questions?

- See the NCVS page on the BJS website – https://bjs.ojp.gov/programs/ncvs
  - See the *NCVS, 2016: Technical Documentation* for more information about the methodology

- Email AskBJS@usdoj.gov with questions – emails are forwarded to BJS statisticians with topical expertise

- Access NCVS public-use data files at the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) – https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/ICPSR/series/95
  - See the annual codebooks for more information