

Welcome to the National Crime Victimization Survey Knowledge Corner. This short video will provide an overview of the Supplemental Victimization Survey, or SVS. The SVS is a supplement to the NCVS and asks persons age 16 or older about their experiences with stalking.

The history of the SVS can be traced back to 1994 when the Violence Against Women Act, or VAWA, was passed. In response to the VAWA legislation and to further understanding of violence against women, the National Violence Against Women Survey, which was co-sponsored by the National Institute of Justice and the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was conducted from November 1995 to May 1996. This survey provided the first national measure of stalking victimization. The results from this study concluded that this form of violence was more prevalent than previously thought and therefore should be treated as a legitimate criminal justice problem and a public health concern.

The SVS built upon the National Violence Against Women Survey with the intent to broaden the understanding of stalking victimization. BJS first collected the SVS in 2006. Although the SVS was administered and collected in 2006, it was designed in 2005, shortly before federal stalking laws changed with VAWA. This amended the law to include an expanded definition of cyberstalking and victim harm. In 2013, VAWA was amended again to include elements of presence, intimidation, emotional distress, and cyberstalking.

In 2015, BJS statisticians redesigned the 2006 version of the SVS instrument so that it paralleled the 2013 updates to VAWA. The instrument was redesigned to begin with a screener asking about each element of VAWA's stalking definition. The final revised SVS questionnaire was administered from July through December 2016.

The SVS was administered for a third time from July through December 2019. The 2019 SVS questionnaire was largely the same version of the 2016 SVS with minor modifications. However, due to changes in the questionnaire, estimates from the 2016 and 2019 SVS cannot be compared to estimates from the 2006 SVS.

The 2019 SVS was administered to persons age 16 or older who completed an NCVS interview. Data were collected for six months like most NCVS supplements. In the SVS, stalking is defined as a repeated course of conduct that either caused the respondent substantial emotional distress or fear for their safety or someone they know, or would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of someone they know. The SVS collects information on both traditional stalking and stalking with technology.

The SVS questionnaire contains screener and incident form sections. The screening questions collect information on each element of stalking including unwanted contact or behaviors, repeated course of conduct, actual fear, substantial emotional distress, and reasonable fear. If the respondent endorses experiencing stalking, the incident form asks for details about that stalking reported in the screener. The SVS incident form collects information on characteristics

of the offender; duration and frequency of stalking; motive for stalking; other threats or attacks the victim may have experienced; help-seeking; self-protective actions; and the cost to victim.

The webpage to access information about the SVS is displayed on this screen (<https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/supplemental-victimization-survey-svs>). Here, the user can find information about the methodology of the SVS, download questionnaires, and access BJS publications and products that use SVS data. Users can also access a link to the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) where they can download the SVS datasets and codebooks.

To view other Knowledge Corner videos, please go to YouTube to view the playlist. For more information about the NCVS, see the NCVS data collection page on the BJS website. Please email askbjs@usdoj.gov with any questions and your email will be forwarded to BJS statisticians with topical experience.

Thank you.