



# The National Intimate and Sexual Violence Surveillance (NISVS) System

RTI International has conducted research on crime, violence, justice systems, and behavioral health for over 30 years. Using rigorous multidisciplinary approaches, RTI research advances knowledge and informs policy, practice, and programs nationally and internationally.

Professional backgrounds of RTI researchers span a wide variety of disciplines including criminology, economics, law, psychology, public health, and sociology. Crime, violence, and justice staff are located in RTI's main office in Research Triangle Park, NC, and in offices throughout the United States. RTI maintains a presence in Washington, DC, for consultation on crime, violence, justice, and behavioral health topics.

## Overview

RTI International was funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to design a **National Intimate and Sexual Violence Surveillance (NISVS) System**. Intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual violence (SV) endanger the health and well-being of women and men in the United States. Despite the considerable amount of research and insight into this health threat, researchers continue to be challenged in their efforts to measure the extent and nature of IPV and SV. Yet such information is fundamental to the efforts of



policy makers and program developers across the nation who are trying to reduce the personal and public costs of personal violence. The purpose of this contract is to design a surveillance system that will generate accurate and precise estimates of the prevalence and nature of IPV and SV among women and men. In this project, RTI will accomplish the following:

- Recommend a methodology for the development and implementation of a state-based system to collect information about the prevalence and incidence of IPV and SV for each state in the U.S.
- Develop a survey measurement tool that captures the incidence and prevalence of IPV and SV and other relevant information
- Design a series of data collection, monitoring, and processing systems to efficiently manage the collection of high-quality survey data from household respondents across the country
- Propose a strategy to disseminate survey findings to a broad audience including state health departments, other federal agencies, national prevention and service organizations, and state-based nongovernmental organizations

The findings will inform prevention, investigation, and enforcement strategies designed to reduce IPV and SV in the United States. This surveillance system will support the development of public policies and prevention strategies at the national and state levels and help to evaluate progress in reducing the health and social burdens associated with IPV and SV. Documenting and monitoring the incidence and prevalence of IPV and SV will provide a critical first step in improving the health status of individuals, making communities safer, and reducing the social and health care costs currently burdening state and federal governments and programs.

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