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From: NCIPC OMB (CDC)
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 2:48 PM
To: shannonhemmo@gmail.com
Cc: NCIPC OMB (CDC)
Subject: Comment on CDC-2022-0009-0001

Shannon Murphy

Thank you for taking the time to provide your comment and share your valuable insights. Sexual violence is a very serious public health issue, and accurately estimating the number of people affected is a challenge to which we are committed to undertaking. We agree that sexual violence victimization is underreported for many reasons, such as the ones you described, and this impacts prevalence estimates. One of the original goals of NISVS was to address the point that you raised regarding low reporting to police, healthcare, and other authorities, which makes it harder to understand the actual prevalence of sexual and other forms of violence. The redesigned NISVS survey serves to address important challenges such as the response rate, disclosure of victimization, and ensuring representative sampling which will improve the estimation of sexual violence prevalence among women and men in the U.S. The survey design improvements will benefit the field by increasing awareness of the problem and may encourage greater disclosure of victimization in general, help-seeking, and allocation of resources for victims.

As you pointed out, it is true that some respondents might recognize their own (or others') experiences when answering the survey questions. Since the first NISVS data collection in 2010, we have incorporated behaviorally-specific language to help facilitate disclosure and clarity about the experiences the survey is designed to measure. This survey question method is recommended by experts in the field to increase data accuracy. Further, to provide additional support to participants, at the conclusion of the survey we provide helpline numbers as resources for those who wish to seek more information for themselves or others.

Thank you for your helpful suggestion to add more information about how data collection would improve our understanding of sexual violence and potentially inform prevention efforts. In our data reports, our team regularly describes the prevention and health implications of victimization and will continue to do so.

Thank you again for your interest in the NISVS survey and sharing your thoughts and suggestions.

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