

## R Survey Screening Questions

**Rape** was defined as an event that occurred without the victim's consent, that involved the use or threat of force to penetrate the victim's vagina or anus by penis, tongue, fingers, or object, or the victim's mouth by penis. The definition included both attempted and completed rape. The following questions were used to screen respondents for rape victimization:<sup>1</sup>

- *[Female respondents only] Has a man or boy ever made you have sex by using force or threatening to harm you or someone close to you? Just so there is no mistake, by sex we mean putting a penis in your vagina.*

- *Has anyone, male or female, ever made you have oral sex by using force or threat of force? Just so there is no mistake, by oral sex we mean that a man or boy put his penis in your mouth or someone, male or female, penetrated your vagina or anus with their mouth.*

- *Has anyone ever made you have anal sex by using force or threat of harm? Just so there is no mistake, by anal sex we mean that a man or boy put his penis in your anus.*

- *Has anyone, male or female, ever put fingers or objects in your vagina or anus against your will or by using force or threats?*

- *Has anyone, male or female, ever attempted to make you have vaginal, oral, or anal sex against your will, but intercourse or penetration did not occur?*

**Physical assault** was defined as behaviors that threaten, attempt, or actually inflict physical harm. A modified version of the Conflict Tactics Scale<sup>2</sup> was used to screen respondents for physical assault they experienced as a child at the hands of an adult caretaker and physical assault

they experienced as an adult at the hands of another adult:

- *[Physical assault as a child] When you were a child did any parent, step-parent, or guardian ever . . .*

- *[Physical assault as an adult] Not counting any incidents you have already mentioned, after you became an adult did any other adult, male or female, ever . . .*

- *Throw something at you that could hurt?*

- *Push, grab, or shove you?*

- *Pull your hair?*

- *Slap or hit you?*

- *Kick or bite you?*

- *Choke or attempt to drown you?*

- *Hit you with some object?*

- *Beat you up?*

- *Threaten you with a gun?*

- *Threaten you with a knife or other weapon?*

- *Use a gun on you?*

- *Use a knife or other weapon on you?*

**Stalking** was defined as a course of conduct directed at a specific person that involves repeated visual or physical proximity; non-consensual communication; verbal, written, or implied threats; or a combination thereof that would cause fear in a reasonable person (with repeated meaning on two or more occasions). The survey used the following questions to screen for stalking victimization:

- *Not including bill collectors, telephone solicitors, or other salespeople, has anyone, male or female, ever . . .*

- *Followed or spied on you?*

- *Sent you unsolicited letters or written correspondence?*

- *Made unsolicited phone calls to you?*

- *Stood outside your home, school, or workplace?*

- *Showed up at places you were even though he or she had no business being there?*

- *Left unwanted items for you to find?*

- *Tried to communicate in other ways against your will?*

- *Vandalized your property or destroyed something you loved?*

Respondents who answered yes to one or more of these questions were screened for whether anyone had ever done any of these things to them on more than one occasion and whether they felt frightened or feared bodily harm as a result of these behaviors. Only respondents who reported being victimized on more than one occasion and who were very frightened or feared bodily harm were counted as stalking victims.

### Notes

1. Rape screening questions were adapted from those used in The National Women's Study, see *Rape in America: A Report to the Nation* (National Victim Center and the Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, 211 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 500, Arlington, Virginia 22201, April 2, 1992, p.15).

2. Straus, Murray, "Measuring Intrafamily Conflict and Violence: Conflict Tactics (CT) Scale," *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 41 (February 1979): 75-88.

## T Survey Methodology

The National Violence Against Women (NVAW) Survey was conducted from November 1995 to May 1996 by interviewers at Schulman, Ronca, and Bucuvalas, Inc. (SRBI), under the direction of John Boyle.<sup>1</sup> The authors of this report designed the survey and conducted the analysis.

The national sample was drawn by random-digit dialing from households with a telephone in all 50 States and the District of Columbia. The sample was administered by U.S. Census region. Within each region, a simple random sample of working residential "hundreds banks" of phone numbers was drawn. (A hundreds bank is the first eight digits of any 10-digit telephone number; e.g., 301-608-38xx.) A randomly generated two-digit number was appended to each randomly sampled hundreds bank to produce the full 10-digit, random-digit number. Separate banks of numbers were generated for male and female respondents. These random-digit numbers were called by SRBI interviewers from their central telephone facility, where nonworking and nonresidential numbers were screened out. Once a residential household was reached, eligible adults (i.e., women and men 18 years of age and older) in each household were identified. In households with more than one eligible adult, the adult with the most recent birthday was selected as the designated respondent.

A total of 8,000 women and 8,005 men 18 years and older were interviewed using a computer-assisted telephone interviewing system. (Five completed interviews with men were subsequently eliminated from the sample during data editing due to an excessive amount of incongruous data.) Only female interviewers surveyed female respondents. For male respondents, approximately half of the

interviews were conducted by female interviewers and half by male interviewers.

A Spanish-language translation was administered by bilingual interviewers for Spanish-speaking respondents.

To determine the representativeness of the sample, select demographic characteristics of the NVAW Survey sample were compared with demographic characteristics of the general population as measured by the U.S. Census Bureau's 1995 Current Population Survey of adult men and women. Sample

weighting was considered to correct for possible biases introduced by the fact that some households had multiple phone lines and multiple eligibles, and for over- and under-representation of selected subgroups. Although there were some instances of over- and under-representation, the overall unweighted prevalence rates for rape, physical assault, and stalking were not significantly different from their respective weighted rates. As a result, sample weighting was not used in the analysis of the NVAW Survey data.

**Exhibit 16: Estimated Standard Errors Multiplied by the z-Score (1.96) for a 95-Percent Confidence Level by Sample or Subsample Size**

| Size of Sample<br>or Subsample | Percentage of the Sample or Subsample Giving a Certain<br>Response or Displaying a Certain Characteristic for<br>Percentages Exactly or Approximately Equal to: |          |          |          |       |
|--------------------------------|---|----------|----------|----------|-------|
|                                | 10 or 90  | 20 or 80 | 30 or 70 | 40 or 60 | 50/50 |
| 16,000                         | 0.5   | 0.6      | 0.7      | 0.8      | 0.8   |
| 12,000                         | 0.6   | 0.7      | 0.8      | 0.9      | 0.9   |
| 8,000                          | 0.7   | 0.9      | 1.0      | 1.1      | 1.1   |
| 4,000                          | 0.9   | 1.2      | 1.4      | 1.5      | 1.5   |
| 3,000                          | 1.1   | 1.4      | 1.6      | 1.8      | 1.8   |
| 2,000                          | 1.3   | 1.8      | 2.0      | 2.1      | 2.2   |
| 1,500                          | 1.5   | 2.0      | 2.3      | 2.5      | 2.5   |
| 1,300                          | 1.6   | 2.2      | 2.5      | 2.7      | 2.7   |
| 1,200                          | 1.7   | 2.3      | 2.6      | 2.8      | 2.8   |
| 1,100                          | 1.8   | 2.4      | 2.7      | 2.9      | 3.0   |
| 1,000                          | 1.9   | 2.5      | 2.8      | 3.0      | 3.1   |
| 900                            | 2.0   | 2.6      | 3.0      | 3.2      | 3.3   |
| 800                            | 2.1   | 2.8      | 3.2      | 3.4      | 3.5   |
| 700                            | 2.2   | 3.0      | 3.4      | 3.6      | 3.7   |
| 600                            | 2.4   | 3.2      | 3.7      | 3.9      | 4.0   |
| 500                            | 2.6   | 3.5      | 4.0      | 4.3      | 4.4   |
| 400                            | 2.9   | 3.9      | 4.5      | 4.8      | 4.9   |
| 300                            | 3.4   | 4.5      | 5.2      | 5.6      | 5.7   |
| 200                            | 4.2   | 5.6      | 6.4      | 6.8      | 6.9   |
| 150                            | 4.8   | 6.4      | 7.4      | 7.9      | 8.0   |
| 100                            | 5.9   | 7.9      | 9.0      | 9.7      | 9.8   |
| 75                             | 6.8   | 9.1      | 10.4     | 11.2     | 11.4  |
| 50                             | 8.4   | 11.2     | 12.8     | 13.7     | 14.0  |