

# **United States Department of Justice**

Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (VAWA 2022):

Section 1307 Report –  
Interagency Working Group to Study Federal Efforts to Collect Data on Sexual  
Violence

October, 2024

**Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (VAWA 2022)**  
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**Background**

The Interagency Working Group to Study Federal Efforts to Collect Data on Sexual Violence was established as a result of Title XIII of the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (VAWA 2022).<sup>1</sup> Specifically, Section 1307 of VAWA 2022 directs the Attorney General to create an interagency working group and issue a report:

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall establish an interagency working group to study Federal efforts to collect data on sexual violence and to make recommendations on the harmonization of such efforts.

(b) **COMPOSITION.**—The Working Group shall be comprised of at least one representative from each of the following agencies, who shall be selected by the head of that agency:

- (1) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- (2) The Department of Education.
- (3) The Department of Health and Human Services.
- (4) The Department of Justice.
- (5) The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

(c) **DUTIES.**—The Working Group shall consider the following:

- (1) What activity constitutes different acts of sexual violence.
- (2) Whether reports that use the same terms for acts of sexual violence are collecting the same data on these acts.
- (3) Whether the context which led to an act of sexual violence should impact how that act is accounted for in reports.
- (4) Whether the data collected is presented in a way that allows the general public to understand what acts of sexual violence are included in each measurement.
- (5) Steps that agencies that compile reports relating to sexual violence can take to avoid double counting incidents of sexual violence.

(d) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act the Working Group shall publish and submit to Congress a report on the following:

- (1) The activities of the Working Group.
- (2) Recommendations to harmonize Federal efforts to collect data on sexual violence.
- (3) Actions Federal agencies can take to implement the recommendations described in paragraph (2).
- (4) Recommendations, if any, for congressional action to implement the recommendations described in paragraph (2).

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<sup>1</sup> Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022, Pub. L. 117-103, 136 Stat. 49 (2022).

(e) **TERMINATION.**—The Working Group shall terminate 30 days after the date on which the report is submitted pursuant to subsection (d).

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **HARMONIZE.**—The term “harmonize” includes efforts to coordinate sexual violence data collection to produce complementary information, as appropriate, without compromising programmatic needs.

(2) **SEXUAL VIOLENCE.**—The term “sexual violence” includes an unwanted sexual act (including both contact and non-contact) about which the Federal Government collects information.

(3) **WORKING GROUP.**—The term “Working Group” means the interagency working group established under subsection (a).

## **The Sexual Violence Data Interagency Working Group**

### *Composition*

The Sexual Violence Data Interagency Working Group, hereafter the SVD IWG, was established in January 2023. It includes representatives from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); U.S. Department of Education (ED); U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC); with U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) representation from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA); Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS); National Institute of Justice (NIJ); Office for Victims of Crime (OVC); and Office on Violence against Women (OVW). The SVD IWG is chaired by representatives from the NIJ and the BJS. Since its establishment, the SVD IWG has met regularly, typically every two weeks, beginning February 1, 2023.

### *Scope of Report*

The scope of this report encompasses the agencies specifically tasked to be a part of the SVD IWG by Section 1307 and the data collections they manage. Further, this report focuses on general public data from SVD IWG member agencies. Other potential sources of sexual violence information, such as investigative or prosecutorial decision data maintained by non-SVD IWG agencies, and one-time, non-repeated data collections are not included as such sources are either not publicly accessible, exist outside of the scope of SVD IWG member agencies, and/or are not used to produce generalizable findings about a population. Specific sub-populations, such as military personnel or prisoners, are also not included.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> For more information on sexual violence within the military population, see the Department of Defense’s [Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database \(DSAID\)](#). For more information on sexual violence within the prison population, see BJS’s [Sexual Victimization in Correctional Facilities \(PREA\) | Bureau of Justice Statistics \(ojp.gov\)](#).

Three points of consensus guided the SVD IWG’s work:

- 1) **Considerable harmony already exists across federal statistical data on sexual violence.** Nationally representative statistics about sexual violence are generated using different measures, through different methods, in different contexts, and for different purposes—collectively producing a detailed and nuanced picture of sexual violence in the United States.

To strengthen and sustain the complementary nature of these data sets, the agencies represented on the SVD IWG maintain active partnerships with each other through existing formal and informal mechanisms. Such partnerships are well-established and documented publicly,<sup>3</sup> including in the Government Accountability Office’s (GAO) report *Sexual Violence Data: Actions Needed to Improve Clarity and Address Differences Across Federal Data Collection Efforts* from July 2016 (hereafter, the GAO Report).<sup>4</sup>

- 2) **New harmonization efforts should be limited to data collected specifically for statistical purposes, which can increase complementary information without compromising programmatic needs.** The SVD IWG discussed three categories of federal sexual violence data that are managed by their respective agencies. These categories describe distinct types of information collected for specific purposes and programmatic needs. The three data categories identified by the SVD IWG are:

- *Statistical data* are often constructed to represent the nation and therefore provide counts or estimates for the entire United States. These data are typically archived, made public, and yield reports from the federal agencies that collect the data. Measures from statistical data are regularly used by other stakeholders, including the media, policymakers, and other levels of government (e.g., state, Tribal, or local). Such measures are designed to produce prevalence (commonness) and incidence (frequency) for outcomes of interest to policymakers and practitioners, specifically those engaged in the fields of violence prevention and response.<sup>5</sup> Examples of data collected for statistical purposes include the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and the National Intimate Partner and

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<sup>3</sup> Examples include but are not limited to: 1) the DOJ’s National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), was managed by BJS and the FBI’s Uniform Crime Report (UCR), as the former measures reported and unreported crime and the latter counts crimes known to law enforcement; 2) the 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), NIJ provided support to the CDC who manages this data collection for the general population and American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) oversample data collections (with support by NIJ again in 2023 for a method to further collect AIAN data); 3) the Department of Defense provided support to CDC for NISVS in both 2010 and 2016 to collect data from members of the military; and 4) BJS and CDC have periodic meetings to discuss updates to NCVS and NISVS and to discuss opportunities for collaboration. In this report, different SVD IWG agencies’ data collections, the measures used, and the ways the data serve to inform practitioners, policymakers, and the public are highlighted.

<sup>4</sup> The GAO Report was more expansive in scope and noted how some information about collections was not easily accessible to the public, though agencies have subsequently resolved those issues to GAO’s satisfaction. *See Sexual Violence Data: Actions Needed to Improve Clarity and Address Differences Across Federal Data Collection Efforts* at <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-16-546>.

<sup>5</sup> With respect to the NCVS, BJS defines prevalence as, “the number or percentage of unique persons who were crime victims, or of unique households that experienced crime,” and incidence as, “the number of specific criminal acts involving one or more victims.” *See Criminal Victimization, 2022* at <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/cv22.pdf>.

Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS). Additional details about these collections are discussed throughout this report and can be found in Appendices A, B, and C.

- *Performance metric data* are administrative information generally used for internal monitoring of federally funded programs, tied to specific grant/funding requirements, and may be closely bound in what is reported by statutes. These data are typically collected only in aggregate and may be provided to fulfill specific Congressional reporting mandates.
- *Scientific inquiry data*, including evaluations, are typically used for addressing specific research questions, testing potential innovation, and assessing impact. Such data can be purposefully different than statistical collections to allow exploration of new questions and approaches and testing possible changes to statistical data collections. Scientific inquiry data are typically archived publicly and are used in articles and reports by federal agencies, grantees, and the public.

Only statistical data is collected and reported with the goal to produce generalizable findings and inform the public. While all three categories of data managed by the SVD IWG members exist, the agencies concurred that performance metric and scientific inquiry data do not allow for data harmonization.<sup>6</sup> Performance metric and scientific inquiry data do not yield generalizable, representative findings. Additionally, performance metric and scientific inquiry data are typically tailored to specific programmatic needs. As a result, harmonization efforts of non-statistical data may significantly risk compromising research and programmatic needs.

- 3) **Broad harmonization efforts could have limited utility and risk compromising the value of existing data.** Given the consensus that statistical data sets examining sexual violence already operate in considerable harmony, the SVD IWG focused on identifying the relatively narrow areas where further harmonization could prove beneficial without compromising programmatic needs. The goal of harmonization is to coordinate the collection of sexual violence data to produce complementary information, consistent with the language of Section 1307 and the GAO Report discussions of harmonization. Given that goal, agencies must be careful to ensure that additional harmonization efforts do not compromise the value of existing statistical data sources in terms of the following: a) their utility alongside other data sources, b) the ability to generate trends over time (e.g., compare year-to-year), and c) the unique purposes for which the statistical data are collected.

Additionally, potential harmonization efforts are limited by the fact that individual collections are designed for very specific programmatic purposes. There is no single “correct” way to measure sexual violence since no single data collection can leverage all sources simultaneously. For example, if crime reports were solely used to gauge the extent of sexual violence in the U.S., prevalence and incidence amounts would be extremely low due to historic underreporting of these offenses to law enforcement, leading to inaccurate counts of sexual

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<sup>6</sup> There is an additional data classification unique to the EEOC, their civil and criminal complaints (charges). Those data would also not be relevant to harmonization efforts.

violence victimization. Underreported data on sexual violence victimization could then negatively impact federal, state, Tribal, and local responses to these crimes and prevention and intervention efforts. By considering multiple sources of sexual violence data such as public health and crime victimization survey data (which includes self-reported incidents not reported to law enforcement), a more comprehensive view of the magnitude and types of sexual violence occurring in the U.S can be obtained. Appendix B highlights how the multiple data collections provide a more complete understanding of sexual violence in the U.S. that could not be seen with a single or uniform collection.

In summary, the SVD IWG agreed:

- Federal data collections on sexual violence already operate in considerable harmony.
- Large scale changes are not needed to further harmonize federal data collections on sexual violence and could in fact work against the goal of understanding sexual violence from multiple perspectives (e.g., criminal justice, public health, education).
- Long-established partnerships and information sharing within and between agencies have continued and will continue. This established coordination yields opportunities to maximally leverage statistical data so that the problem of sexual violence is thoroughly examined, and a range of solutions can be crafted.
- Agencies may collect similar data with distinct measures and methods, including different contexts for the data collection (e.g., BJS for crime data, CDC for public health data, Department of Education for educational institutions data, EEOC workplace institutions data).
- Different data collections across agencies are often complementary, with measures and methods developed with specific programmatic goals in mind and knowledge of how other agencies collect similar data.
- Complementary data collections allow the public to examine the issue of sexual violence from different lenses and contexts, using various measures and for different purposes, allowing a more comprehensive picture of sexual violence in the U.S. as seen in Appendix B.
- Potential opportunities for further harmonization lie with nationally representative statistical data, not data collected by the federal government for other purposes, such as performance metrics or scientific inquiry data. Opportunities are discussed in the recommendations section of this report.
- These points of consensus contextualize the SVD IWG findings and recommendations.

#### *Working Group Findings by Five Key Issues in Section 1307(c)*

The SVD IWG was charged to consider five key issues as part of Section 1307(c) when studying federal efforts to collect data on sexual violence and making recommendations on the harmonization of such efforts. Each key issue is numbered according to the statute, and provides relevant findings, though the SVD IWG notes some findings may overlap across multiple key issues.

##### (1) What activity constitutes different acts of sexual violence.

For purposes of this report, the SVD IWG uses the statutory definition of sexual violence provided in Section 1307 (f)(2) of VAWA 2022. The term “sexual violence” includes an

unwanted sexual act (including both contact and non-contact). The SVD IWG agreed that the overall definition of sexual violence provided in Section 1307 (f)(2) was consistent with how the represented agencies define sexual violence. This legislative definition encompasses the classifications used for programmatic purposes by agencies represented in the SVD IWG. Organization specific definitions can be found in Appendix A.<sup>7</sup>

(2) Whether reports that use the same terms for acts of sexual violence are collecting the same data on these acts.

Agencies represented in the SVD IWG publish reports using definitions and data unique to their agency. These reports provide open and clear definitions with links or references to the data being used. While such ease and transparency were not as common in 2016 when the GAO Report was released, SVD IWG members have implemented GAO's recommendations to provide accessible definitions. As such, the SVD IWG concurred that reports are typically well explained, transparent in methods, and not misleading to a reader. Reports created within the same agency, using the same definitions and data, are designed to classify and measure sexual violence in the same way.

Although terms used can be similar across federal data collections (e.g., sexual violence, rape), operational definitions and the research context of data collected can vary across agencies. Federal sexual violence data collections are designed for specific purposes, such as to understand prevalence, characteristics, and consequences, or to inform prevention efforts. Different purposes can require a data collection to focus on different segments of the population or use different methods to collect and report data. Methods can include collecting and reporting data on specific types of sexual violence, using certain research contexts to frame the data collection (e.g., a crime, public health, education, military) or producing national estimates based on sophisticated statistical procedures.

Primary sources for federal sexual violence data can include self-reports, law enforcement records, or medical records. The operational definitions, purposes for the data collections, methods, and contexts, collectively help to describe the problem of sexual violence. These complementary data tell the story of sexual violence experienced in the United States, while also minimizing potential overlap or redundancy of measures. *See* Appendix B which illustrates how different data collections across the federal government provide a unique aspect of our understanding of this large and multifaceted problem.

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<sup>7</sup> The GAO Report also provides a listing of sexual violence-related terms and how they are defined across organizations. The SVD IWG directs those interested in such a breakdown to the GAO Report. In their report, GAO noted the need for such a breakdown given that definitions were not readily available and accessible to the public. However, GAO also noted that following their initial report, DOJ, ED, and HHS have all made definitions publicly accessible (see <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-16-546>). Given this, the SVD IWG provides these public agency definitions in Appendix A, including the public websites and/or reports where said definitions are available.

(3) Whether the context which led to an act of sexual violence should impact how that act is accounted for in reports.

Practitioners, policymakers, and researchers whose work involves sexual violence appreciate that it is a complex problem that requires examination through different lenses culling insights from multiple data sources. It is imperative that the reported findings from these data collections articulate how sexual violence is defined and measured and describe the relevant context and characteristics surrounding the act of sexual violence (e.g., who was the individual who perpetrated the act, where did the act of sexual violence take place, the age of the person victimized, etc.). However, some unique characteristics are particularly relevant to examining context. For example, where a trust relationship existed between the victim and the person committing the act, collecting variables regarding this relationship is necessary. Collection of such specific information allows for a clear and transparent understanding of the data needed to inform prevention and intervention efforts. Additionally, this level of detail highlights the potential similarities and differences in data across agencies and jurisdictions, the rationale for the distinctions, and the subsequent findings and implications articulated in reports. *See* Appendix B for an illustration of how the context surrounding an act of sexual violence can vary, and how federal data collections capture the distinct circumstances.

There are various instances (e.g., reported crime, health, education, employment) in which sexual violence data are collected and that employ different methods for obtaining the data. Data collection methods include self-report surveys of the population, data abstraction from medical records, and reviewing crime reports (whether as part of standard law enforcement operations by a police department or sheriff's office, or in compiling reported incidents as part of Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act) reporting requirements for institutions of higher education). Collecting data through different avenues and from different sources allows for a more complete picture of sexual violence than if data were only collected through one source. Individual data collections have limitations in their scope. For example, data sourced from crime reports only reflect incidents reported to law enforcement, and medical records data only includes information about sexual violence if a victim seeks medical care and reports the sexual violence to medical personnel. Self-reported data complements these information sources by capturing experiences of sexual violence not reported to law enforcement or provided to medical personnel. But not everyone who experiences sexual violence recognizes that it is a crime, and some of those who do may not feel safe reporting or engaging with the criminal justice system or process. Further, individuals who commit sexual violence are often known to those who experience such violence (e.g., family members, intimate partners, classmates, co-workers, or other acquaintances), which can further impact a victim's willingness to involve law enforcement or other systems or institutions.

All of the information obtained from multiple data sources helps explain the scope and characteristics of sexual violence. When looking across different types of data collections, prevalence estimates may be lower in crime or medical record collections as compared to self-report victimization figures, but crime or medical collections can provide more detailed data



of specific incidents and ultimately serve larger programmatic purposes. For example, crimes reported to law enforcement is a particular metric of public interest and needs to be defined in a specific way to provide reliable collection when compared to self-report data. Data comparisons are further discussed under key point #5 in regard to preventing double-counting.

(4) Whether the data collected is presented in a way that allows the general public to understand what acts of sexual violence are included in each measurement.

As indicated under key point #2, agency reports are typically well-defined with explanations of relevant measures and references to the data. Differences in data and scope are made clear to the public. The types of sexual violence data collected, how they are measured, and their frequency are specified on the respective websites.

The SVD IWG has produced three resources illustrating how information is publicly available to accompany this report as follows:

- Appendix A compiles all SVD IWG agency definitions in one source.
- Appendix B presents examples of how specific incidents of sexual violence may be included as part of various data collections, and includes practical examples of how data are collected, how collections differ in scope, and how the public can understand the process of complementary data collections. The information populating the table was sourced from publicly available definitions and data, as reflected in the appendices.
- Appendix C provides a listing of publicly available statistical data sources relevant to this report, including website links.

(5) Steps agencies take to prevent double counting.

The issue of double counting can be a potential challenge when using count-based data. Without careful consideration and documentation, count-based measures can be redundant and confusing to the general public when trying to determine the extent of sexual violence. This issue does not exist for estimate-based data. This difference is critical to understanding the limited nature of potential double counting. Also important to this issue is the distinction between counts and estimates.

Count-based data collect the number or tally of events based on an empirical observation or record, and reports that quantity as observed.<sup>8</sup> Counts collect specific data points (e.g., reported incidents of a type of crime, number of victims, etc.) and report the overall sum. For example, the DOJ's National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) uses sexual violence recorded by law enforcement as the official measure of these crimes.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> See Long, Scott, J. (1997). Regression models for categorical and limited dependent variables. Sage Publications. Thousand Oaks, CA.

<sup>9</sup> NIBRS collects data at the incident/count level and seeks to report specific counts moving forward. However, as the nation fully transitions from summary UCR counts to NIBRS counts, BJS is helping to produce NIBRS estimation of counts. This estimation effort will end once the population coverage of NIBRS allows for direct reporting of nationally representative counts. For purposes of this report, NIBRS is treated as a count-based data collection since count-based is the data design and ultimate intent. More information on the NIBRS Estimation Project is found at <https://bjs.ojp.gov/nibrs-estimation-project>.

In contrast, estimate-based data collect the number or tally of events based on an empirical observation or record from a small sample but uses standard errors (both sampling and nonsampling error) to extrapolate the count from a sample to be nationally-representative.<sup>10</sup> Estimates are used to calculate a projection, often based on a probability sample (e.g., random sample) of a group of people or population. Estimates use statistical methods to develop a “best guess” using a small subset of direct measures. In federal data on sexual violence, NISVS and NCVS are prominent examples of collections using reporting estimates. More detail on these collections can be found in Appendices B and C of this report.

The SVD IWG identified only one instance where double counting could occur in federal sexual violence data and assessed that it is unlikely to be a major concern, in part due to existing steps the agencies are taking to prevent it. The two primary federal count-based collections of sexual violence are data collected by college campuses as part of the Clery Act and NIBRS. Potential for double counting arises from data harmonization efforts, as the Clery Act uses many of the crime definitions employed by NIBRS and VAWA and follows many of the same classification conventions and methods. However, as described below, additional steps have been put in place to address potential double counting. Educational institutions are required to develop processes to reconcile crime data, so that double counting is minimized and contextualized when appropriate. Below is a discussion of the Clery Act reporting including how the issue of double counting is handled. Additional information on Clery and other SVD IWG data sources can be found in Appendix C.

Crime data are compiled and disclosed under the Clery Act with the goal of allowing campus community members and their families to make informed decisions about where to study, work, and live. As part of the Clery Act, institutions must disclose data, including but not limited to sexual violence related data, directly to students and employees as well as separately to ED. These data are assembled from incidents reported to institutional officials and local law enforcement agencies. Students and employees are provided multiple reporting options, which is especially important for individuals who may not be comfortable, at least initially, reporting to campus safety personnel or law enforcement. This reporting process fulfills ED’s programmatic goal of supporting the campus community and providing options to keep any reporting free of recrimination and revictimization.

Additionally, Clery Act data provides a customized view of criminal activity in and around the buildings and properties that are owned or controlled by an institution and recognized student organizations that cannot be gleaned from other data sets. Institutions are required to develop specific processes to reconcile crime data. Clery Act data is self-reported by institutions, but quality control checks are built into the reporting system which further reduces the likelihood of double counting at the institutional level. The Clery Act intentionally creates multiple options for victims and witnesses to report incidents of crime to local law enforcement and certain institutional officials, collectively referred to as Campus Security Authorities (CSAs). Some incidents may be reported to more than one CSA. As reported in the two paragraphs immediately above, schools have developed specific processes to identify incidents that were reported to multiple CSAs and to de-duplicate their data to minimize the effects of potential double counting. Institutions are also required to maintain documentation to substantiate the accuracy and completeness of their crime statistics and are directed to include

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<sup>10</sup> See Goodison, S. (2022) "Local Police Departments Personnel, 2020." US Bureau of Justice Statistics.

explanations and caveats in their disclosures to help campus community members and the general public understand how the data was compiled and how to use it in conjunction with other information sources, such as NIBRS data for near-campus municipalities. The value of Clery Act data, including crime statistics, safety alerts, and crime log information, is further enhanced when viewed alongside NIBRS data from near-campus communities, and campus climate survey data that can provide added clarity and context about attitudes and behaviors that may impact campus safety. In this way, the Clery Act data collection fulfills the unique safety and consumer protection needs of campus community members, parents, and other stakeholders while also minimizing the impact of potential double counting.

Double counting is not an issue for estimate-based data collections such as NISVS and NCVS. These data collections are based on samples of a population typically selected by statistical sampling methods. Responses from the sample are statistically analyzed and adjusted through weighting to produce national estimates of sexual violence. The weighted estimates are reported rather than the individual sample responses, since the sample is only used as a basis for the projection. There is no meaningful duplication in the reported results between estimate-based collections, as it is statistically improbable that someone would be contacted to participate in NISVS and NCVS in the same year. Additionally, there is no meaningful duplication when a count-based and estimate-based collection overlap. This could happen if crime victimization reported through the NCVS had also been reported to law enforcement and thus in NIBRS. But there is no double counting because the NCVS will report an estimate based on individual counts, but not the counts themselves. As discussed in the findings under key points #2 and 3, the purpose and context of estimate- versus count-based data collections are distinct, so even with overlap, there is no way in which the results double count or conflate the prevalence of sexual violence.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Overall, the SVD IWG found that federal government agencies' statistical data collections on sexual violence already operate in considerable harmony, producing detailed and complementary information and fulfilling programmatic goals in a way that would not be possible through a single, standardized collection.

Further, the SVD IWG concurred that there would be limited utility in extensive efforts toward more harmonization, since such efforts could compromise programmatic goals and undercut the value of the data these statistical collections already yield.

The SVD IWG's conclusions related to harmonizing federal data on sexual violence follow below. No Congressional action is required to implement the SVD IWG's conclusions:

1. The SVD IWG has decided to continue to meet to allow for information exchange, coordination, and collaboration about statistical data collection efforts for sexual violence. This conclusion is consistent with the remaining open recommendation from the GAO Report, which noted, "the Director of OMB should establish a federal interagency forum on sexual violence statistics."<sup>11</sup> This working group would meet twice a year to provide updates on data

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<sup>11</sup> See GAO Report recommendation for the Office of Management and Budget (<https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-16-546>), which was agreed to by DOJ even though OMB did not implement the recommendation.

collections, both active and planned, and could include agencies not on the SVD IWG. The group could also examine planned data collections with an emphasis on, “discuss[ing]... differences [in data] and determine whether they are, in fact, necessary,”<sup>12</sup> before data collections begin to maximize harmonization efforts.

2. Agencies should routinely re-examine their efforts to make statistical information on sexual violence accessible to, and easily understood by, a range of stakeholders including the public. This may involve greater use of executive summaries, infographics, and the use of plain-language explanations in reports and other deliverables where they do not already exist. Plain language summaries are a key consideration included in the Evidence Act. In addition to increasing the reach of these important initiatives, increased clarity about the meaning of data and research findings can minimize misunderstanding among the public and protect the integrity of the work from manipulation or misappropriation. Such efforts were included as a general recommendation to DOJ, ED, and HHS as part of the GAO Report. These agencies have all implemented the recommendation as of 2020, per GAO. However, given the wider scope of agencies with sexual violence data than those participating in the SVD IWG, and with new collections or changes to definitions over time, the SVD IWG recommends continued efforts to ensure any public information is up-to-date and accurate across all agencies collecting sexual violence data.
3. Federal agencies should continue to collect, modernize, and report statistics on sexual violence in a way that serves best to inform practitioners, policymakers, and the public. This may include periodic and ongoing efforts to redesign and test instruments and sampling frames.

### **Appendices for Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (VAWA 2022) Section 1307 Report – Interagency Working Group to Study Federal Efforts to Collect Data on Sexual Violence**

Appendix A. Definitions used for programmatic purposes related to sexual violence, by Sexual Violence Data Interagency Working Group agency

Appendix B. Select federal collections capturing sexual violence data, with hypothetical incidents about how each collection could address the incident

Appendix C. Federal statistical data collections on sexual violence, by Sexual Violence Data Interagency Working Group agency

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<sup>12</sup> See GAO Report, pg. 35 ([gao-16-546.pdf](#)).

**Appendix A.** Definitions used for programmatic purposes related to sexual violence, by Sexual Violence Data Interagency Working Group member agency, component, or office.

### **Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)**

BJA does not have a uniform definition of sexual assault, as BJA typically collects performance metric or administrative data as part of its grant programs. BJA generally uses the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) definitions, but there is no specific uniform definition of rape or sexual assault used. BJA grantees, who may work on sexually motivated crimes as part of their grant-funded efforts, use jurisdictionally specific definitions (state, Tribal, local) of sexual assault and sexual violence.

### **Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)**

BJS is actively involved in two key statistical data collection related to sexual violence, the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting Program (NIBRS). Below are the definitions used for each collection as of January 2024.

*NCVS* (<https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/cv22.pdf>)

Rape is defined as coerced or forced sexual intercourse. Forced sexual intercourse means vaginal, anal, or oral penetration by the offender(s). This category could include incidents where the penetration was from a foreign object such as a bottle. It includes attempted rape, threatened rape, male and female victims, and incidents involving victims and offenders who are of the same sex or different sexes.

Sexual assault is defined as a wide range of victimizations, separate from rape, attempted rape, or threatened rape. These crimes include attacks or threatened attacks involving unwanted sexual contact between the victim and offender. Sexual assaults may or may not involve force and include such things as grabbing or fondling.

*NIBRS* (<https://le.fbi.gov/file-repository/nibrs-user-manual-063023.pdf>)

Sex Offenses are defined as any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent. This includes Rape, Sodomy, Sexual Assault with an Object, and Fondling.

Rape (except Statutory Rape) is defined as penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, or by a sex-related object. This definition also includes instance in which the victim is incapable of giving consent because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity (include due to the influence of drugs or alcohol) or because of age. Physical resistance is not required on the part of the victim to demonstrate lack of consent.

Per NIBRS, agencies should classify the crime as Rape, regardless of the age or gender of the victim or offender, if the victim did not consent or if the victim was incapable of giving consent. If the victim consented, the offender did not force or threaten the victim, and the victim was under the statutory age of consent, agencies should classify the crime as statutory rape. In cases where several offenders rape one person, the responding agency should count one Rape (for one victim) and report separate offender information for each offender.

Sodomy (Recoded to Rape for Reporting Purposes) is defined as oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is

unable to give consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. If the offender both raped and sodomized the victim in one incident, then Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) should report both offenses. NOTE: Sodomy will be recoded to Rape for reporting purposes as of 2023, but Sodomy will be excluded starting in 2025.

Sexual Assault with an Object (Recoded to Rape for Reporting Purposes) is defined as using an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is unable to give consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. An “object” or “instrument” is anything used by the offender other than the offender’s genitalia, e.g., a finger, bottle, handgun, stick. NOTE: Sexual Assault with An Object will be recoded to Rape for reporting purposes as of 2023, but Sexual Assault with An Object will be excluded starting in 2025.

Fondling is defined as the touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is unable to give consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

NIBRS also provides two definitions related to unlawful sexual intercourse:

Incest is defined as nonforcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

Statutory Rape is defined as nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent. Per NIBRS, there is no force or coercion used in Statutory Rape; the act is not an attack. The NIBRS user manual advises that law enforcement agencies should classify an offense as Statutory Rape based on the state’s Statutory Rape laws and the findings of the law enforcement investigation.

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Health and Human Services (HHS)**

In 2002, updated in 2009, and most recently in 2014, CDC/DVP developed a definition of sexual violence (SV) and recommended data elements for public health surveillance of SV, with input from external partners.<sup>13</sup> The overall definition is on page 19: “Sexual violence is defined as a sexual act that is committed or attempted by another person without freely given consent of the victim or against someone who is unable to consent or refuse. It includes forced or alcohol/drug facilitated penetration of a victim; forced or alcohol/drug facilitated incidents in which the victim was made to penetrate a perpetrator or someone else; non-physically pressured unwanted penetration; intentional sexual touching; or non-contact acts of a sexual nature. Sexual violence can also occur when a perpetrator forces or coerces a victim to engage in sexual acts with a third party. Sexual violence involves a lack of freely given consent as well as situations in which the victim is unable to consent or refuse.”

### **Department of Education (ED)**

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA) was signed (Pub. Law 113–4), which, among other provisions, amended section 485(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965

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<sup>13</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/sv\\_surveillance\\_definitions1-2009-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/sv_surveillance_definitions1-2009-a.pdf)

(HEA), otherwise known as the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act). The Clery Act requires institutions of higher education to comply with certain campus safety- and security-related requirements as a condition of their participation in the title IV, HEA programs.

VAWA amended the Clery Act to require institutions to compile statistics for incidents of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Section 668.46 of title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) contains the relevant regulations. For purposes of the Clery Act, “dating violence,” “domestic violence,” and “stalking” are defined in the Department’s regulations as follows: Dating violence is defined as violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on the reporting party’s statement and with consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. Dating violence includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse. Dating violence does not include acts covered under the definition of domestic violence. Domestic violence is defined as a felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with, or has cohabitated with, the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person’s acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred. Stalking is defined as engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person’s safety or the safety of others or suffer substantial emotional distress. Sexual Assault is defined as an offense that meets the definition of Rape, Fondling, Incest or Statutory Rape as used in the FBI’s UCR program and is included in Appendix A of 34 CFR Part 668.

Rape is defined as the penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim. Fondling is defined as the touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of their age or because of their temporary or permanent mental incapacity. Incest is defined as sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law. Statutory rape is defined as sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

### **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)**

EEOC does not use a formal definition of sexual violence. EEOC instead identifies sexual violence within the context of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (“Title VII”), which prohibits, *inter alia*, sexual harassment in the workplace. It is unlawful under Title VII to harass an applicant or employee because of that person’s sex. Harassment based on sex can include unwanted conduct expressing sexual attraction or involving sexual activity (e.g., “sexual conduct”); sexual attention or sexual coercion, such as demands or pressure for sexual favors; sexual assault; or discussing or displaying visual depictions of sex acts or sexual remarks. Harassment does not have to be of a sexual nature, however, and also can include offensive remarks about a person’s sex, such as sex-based epithets, sexist comments, or facially sex-neutral offensive conduct motivated by sex (such as bullying directed toward employees of one sex). Under Title VII, both the victim and the

harasser can be either a woman or a man, and the victim and the harasser can be the same sex. (Title VII, 29 CFR Part 1601, 29 CFR Part 1604).

EEOC's data is through reporting/charge filings, as well as administrative complaints and appeals (i.e., no surveys conducted for data related to sexual harassment/violence). EEOC does not parse out from its broader sexual harassment data the charges dealing more specifically with sexual violence.

### **National Institute of Justice (NIJ)**

NIJ does not use a uniform definition of sexual assault. Research funded by NIJ uses legal and public health definitions of sexual violence that vary by the jurisdiction (federal, state, Tribal, local) in which the studies occur. NIJ-funded research requires project documentation. This documentation includes how measures of sexual violence are defined, developed (data provenance), tested, and assessed for reliability and validity. These NIJ-funded study materials and data are essential for ensuring the quality and reliability of data and supporting research transparency and reproducibility.

### **Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)**

OVC does not use a formal definition of sexual violence. For OVC's grant-funded programs, the legal definition of sexual violence varies by jurisdiction (federal, state, Tribal, local). For OVC's grant-funded performance reporting, "sexual assault" includes a wide range of victimization and crimes that include attacks or attempted attacks generally involving unwanted sexual contact between victim and offender. Sexual assaults may or may not involve force and include such conduct as grabbing, fondling, and/or verbal threats as well as rape, which is defined as penetration of any kind of the vagina or anus with any body part or object or oral penetration of a sex organ by another person without the consent of the victim; and may also include penetration of the mouth by a sex organ by another person. For grant-funded performance reporting, the following examples of specific crimes should be reported as adult sexual assault: attempted rape, attempted sexual assault, fondling, forcible sex offense, incest, indecent liberties, indecent exposure, non-forcible sex offense, rape, rape by instrument, sexual assault/misconduct, sexual assault with an object, sodomy.<sup>14</sup>

### **Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)**

For OVW's purposes, the term "sexual assault" means any nonconsensual sexual act proscribed by federal, Tribal, or state law, including when the victim lacks the capacity to consent. This is the statutory definition under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). OVW does not use a formal definition for "sexual violence." OVW administers programs authorized under VAWA, so the statutory definition applies to its grants.

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<sup>14</sup> <https://ovc.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh226/files/media/document/performance-measure-dictionary.pdf>



**Appendix B.** Select federal collections capturing sexual violence data, with hypothetical incidents and how each collection could address the incident.

The table below illustrates how different federal statistical data collections together paint a clearer picture of the nature and impacts of sexual violence. It provides information that can help policymakers and practitioners develop ways of preventing and responding to sexual violence and caring for people who endure its effects. In each of the noted cases, in the event that the identified incidences occurred on the campus or broader “Clery Geography” of an institution of higher education covered by the Clery Act, the indicated incidents would have to be compiled and disclosed under the Clery Act. **Note:** The examples in the table are intended to demonstrate the complementary nature and distinct purposes of the various data collections included in this report. In practice, the data would be aggregated to maintain the privacy and anonymity of individuals.

<p><b>National Incident-based Reporting System (NIBRS)</b> Information on crimes known to law enforcement, reported by law enforcement agencies. -- <i>Annual counts and incidence rates</i></p>	<p><b>National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)</b> Self-reported survey data on crime victimization reported and not reported to law enforcement. -- <i>Annual counts, victimization rates, incidence rates and prevalence rates</i></p>	<p><b>National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS)</b> Self-reported public health survey data on intimate partner violence, sexual violence and stalking. -- <i>Lifetime and annual prevalence estimates</i></p>	<p><b>National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)</b> Self-reported public health survey data that tracks health behaviors and experiences that can lead to poor health in students grades 9 through 12. -- <i>Annual prevalence of sexual violence and lifetime prevalence of physically forced sex</i></p>	<p><b>Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Charge of Discrimination</b> Claims of employment discrimination filed on behalf of a Charging Party (individual or class of individuals) -- <i>Annual counts</i></p>
<p><b>Hypothetical Example #1: Ryan is a 17-year-old with no fixed address. He is raped outside a club and reports the assault to police.</b></p>				
<p>The sexual assault Ryan reported to law enforcement is included in the police department’s NIBRS count, along with demographic information about Ryan, physical characteristics of the person who assaulted him, and information about the time and location of the assault.</p>	<p>Ryan’s parents kicked him out of the family home over a year ago. Ever since, he has been staying with friends or trading sex for a place to sleep. His assault cannot be counted in the NCVS because he is not part of a household.</p>	<p>Because Ryan is not yet 18-years-old and he is unsheltered, he is not eligible to participate in the NISVS survey.</p>	<p>Assuming Ryan is part of the nationally representative sample generated for YRBS, Ryan fills out a survey at school, answering yes on a question about having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when he did not want to. He notes that in the past month he didn’t have a usual place to sleep.</p>	<p>Because this incident did not involve workplace discrimination, the EEOC would not have jurisdiction over a charge regarding Ryan’s incident.</p>

***Hypothetical Example #2: Candace is a 30-year-old whose boss sexually harasses her and coerced her into having sex with him by threatening her continued employment.***

<p>Candace does not believe that her boss's abuse is criminal, so she does not intend to report it to police. Therefore. It is not counted in NIBRS.</p>	<p>Candace's boss's misconduct does not meet the criminal definition of sexual assault used by the NCVS so her victimization cannot be counted in that dataset.</p>	<p>Assuming Candace is randomly selected for participation in NISVS, Candace reports experiencing sexual coercion and non-contact unwanted sexual experiences when she is randomly selected for NISVS participation. She reports a boss/manager/supervisor was the perpetrator and reports contracting a sexually transmitted infection as a result of the sexual coercion.</p>	<p>Candace is not a high-school-aged youth, so she is not eligible to participate in the YRBS.</p>	<p>Candace files a charge of discrimination with the EEOC alleging sexual harassment, which is a form of discrimination based on sex. An investigation is opened into the claim.</p>
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***Hypothetical Example #3: Over a decade ago, when Maria was a teenager, she was raped by her soccer coach. Fearing that nobody would believe her, she did not tell anyone about it. When Maria learns that several young women have recently accused the coach of sexual violence she decides to go to the police.***

<p>Because Maria's assault happened a long time ago, the police department to which she reports it will record the date of the incident if Maria remembers and provides it when she reports the information. If Maria does not know the date on which it happened, the department may record the date on which she reported the sexual assault. The data collection allows agencies to differentiate between an incident date and a report date.</p>	<p>Maria's assault did not happen within the past six months, so it would not be captured in the NCVS.</p>	<p>Assuming Maria is randomly selected for participation in NISVS, Maria's assault is counted when she is surveyed about her lifetime experience with sexual violence. If she had never previously been sexually assaulted and the assault was under the age of 18, her experience would be captured in NISVS as first experiencing rape as a minor. She also reports that she has experienced frequent headaches and trouble sleeping.</p>	<p>Maria is not a high-school-aged youth, so she is not eligible to participate in the YRBS.</p>	<p>Because this incident did not involve workplace discrimination, the EEOC would not have jurisdiction over a charge regarding Maria's incident</p>
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**Hypothetical Example #4: Lee, who is 15 years old, was raped last year by their ex-boyfriend. Lee has not told anyone what happened.**

<p>Lee’s rape has not been reported to police, so it is not part of NIBRS counts.</p>	<p>If the incident occurred within the past six months, Lee’s rape is counted as part of the NCVS if Lee provides this information to the person collecting the data for the NCVS. When interviewed Lee notes that they did not report it to law enforcement but did get help from a victim services provider.</p>	<p>Lee is not yet 18-years-old, so they are not eligible to participate in the NISVS.</p>	<p>Assuming Lee is part of the nationally representative sample generated for YRBS, Lee notes that they were forced to do sexual things that they did not want to do by someone they were dating within the past year. In answering other questions in the survey, Lee notes that they are transgender and have been bullied at school.</p>	<p>Because this incident did not involve workplace discrimination, the EEOC would not have jurisdiction over a charge regarding Lee’s incident.</p>
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**HOW CAN THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THESE SURVIVORS BE USED?**

<p>Investigators, upon noticing that <b>Ryan’s</b> description of his assailant and the club where the assault occurred are like other recently reported sexual assaults, can develop new investigative leads, and potentially result in arrest or prosecution of offenders in <b>Ryan’s</b> case and others.</p>	<p><b>Lee’s</b> victimization, like many sexual assaults, was not reported to law enforcement. These data help policymakers see that sexual assault is the most underreported violent crime<sup>15</sup> by a significant margin and consider what resources communities need to address sexual assault.</p>	<p>Information provided by <b>Candace</b> and <b>Maria</b> about their experiences helps inform prevention efforts by describing the context and characteristics (e.g., age of victimization, type of perpetrator) of different forms of sexual violence. This data also helps healthcare practitioners and policymakers understand the adverse health impacts associated with sexual violence.</p>	<p><b>Lee’s</b> and <b>Ryan’s</b> survey responses help educators craft interventions that account for how certain vulnerabilities (e.g., not having a usual place to sleep, identifying as transgender) are associated with higher rates of sexual violence victimization among youth, and how early experiences of sexual violence are associated with experiencing other forms of violence.</p>	<p><b>Candace’s</b> charge of discrimination with the EEOC for sexual harassment can be investigated. If, after investigation, the EEOC concludes that there is reasonable cause to believe Title VII was violated, <b>Candace</b> will be entitled to appropriate relief and the EEOC will be entitled to seek equitable relief, which often includes remedies such as workplace training, policy development, and workplace monitoring. While the information in <b>Candace’s</b> charge is confidential and not public, the EEOC publishes aggregated data</p>
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<sup>15</sup> See Table 4 in [Criminal Victimization, 2022](#). In 2022, rape/sexual assault was estimated to be reported to law enforcement in about 21% of victimizations. In comparison, overall violent crime was reported for an estimated 42% of victimizations and rape/sexual violence is the only violent crime type reported less than 36% of victimizations.

				about the number of sexual harassment charges it receives.
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**Appendix C.** Federal statistical data collections on sexual violence, by Sexual Violence Data Interagency Working Group agency

**Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)**

**National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)** is an annual survey of households and persons ages 12 and older. The survey is nationally representative and is fielded by the Census Bureau each year. Respondents answer questions about themselves and their household, and they indicate if they've been a victim of a crime in the past six months. New households rotate into the sample on an ongoing basis to replace outgoing households that have been in the sample for the 3½-year period. The primary and supplemental NCVS surveys ask questions about a select set of nonfatal violent and property crimes, including rape and sexual assault, simple and aggravated assault, robbery, stalking, burglary, fraud and identity theft, and motor vehicle theft. The survey questionnaire is available in English and Spanish. The NCVS is one of the nation's two principal measures of crime, the other being NIBRS. The NCVS provides a complementary picture of crime in the US by capturing reports of crimes that were and were not reported to the police. Some data elements are masked to protect Personally Identifiable Information (PII).

**National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)** is an administrative data collection consisting of detailed information about criminal incidents, victims, offenders, and arrests that are collected by state, local, and some Federal law enforcement agencies. NIBRS data is collected and administered by the FBI and is the nation's official measure of crimes known to law enforcement. BJS uses the NIBRS data for statistical purposes. BJS is also tasked with generating state and national crime estimates based on the NIBRS data on behalf of the FBI. FBI's NIBRS information page and user manual: [NIBRS — FBI](#); [FBI's Crime Data Explorer](#) for NIBRS; this is the FBI clearing house for all NIBRS data and is where Crime in the United States (CIUS) is published each year by the FBI; [BJS NIBRS information website](#); BJS [2015](#) and [2019](#) online interactive report (with Comma Separated Value (csv) format data tables) on sexual assault victimizations for states that submitted NIBRS data; [BJS NIBRS LEARCAT](#) data tool containing data on sexual assault counts and rates; BJS NIBRS extract files data collection series at ICPSR.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Health and Human Services (HHS)**

**National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS)** is an ongoing, nationally representative health survey that collects detailed information on sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence victimization of adult (aged 18 and older) women and men in the US. NISVS data are collected through a random digit dial telephone survey. The survey collects data on past-year and lifetime experiences of violence among residents of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. NISVS asks questions about intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and stalking using a health frame and asking several behaviorally specific questions to help maximize reliable reporting of these important public health issues. The survey was launched in 2010, and data collection is ongoing. Published reports summarizing NISVS data include the definition of sexual violence and each subtype measured, including the measures used to capture each type of sexual violence. These reports, along with factsheets, infographics and other materials, are available to the general public through the CDC NISVS website. The most recent NISVS report (as of February 2024) was published in December 2023 based on data that was collected in 2016/17.

**Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)** monitors priority health risk behaviors and experiences among high school students in the United States. There are three sexual violence questions regularly included in the YRBSS standard and national questionnaires. Since 2001, a question about forced sexual intercourse in the lifetime has been included; since 2013, a question on sexual dating violence in the last 12 months has been included. Since 2017 a third question has been included similar to the sexual dating violence question but focused on sexual violence by any perpetrator in the last 12 months. In 2023, a fourth question about experiencing sexual violence ever in the adolescent's lifetime by an adult or someone at least 5 years older appeared on the national survey. A number of additional sexual violence questions are also available for sites to include on their survey on the Optional Question List. The YRBSS is the only ongoing nationally representative survey of high school students that measures sexual violence. This enables the monitoring of trends over time and allows an examination of the association between violence and many other health risk behaviors among youth. YRBSS is designed to provide comparable national, state, territorial, tribal, and local data. Summary YRBSS reports, data summaries, and additional information on the measures of sexual violence are included on the CDC YRBSS website.

### **Department of Education (ED)**

[Campus Safety and Security Data Analysis Cutting Tool](#) provides customized reports for public inquiries about campus crime and fire data. The data are drawn from the Office of Post Secondary Education's Campus Safety and Security Data Analysis Cutting Tool (CSSDACT). The CSSDACT is housed on a public-facing website that serves as a repository of crime statistics and fire statistics that are submitted to ED via an annual web-based data collection. Currently users can access crime data for institutions from calendar years 2008-2021. Data from the most recently completed data collection is uploaded to the CSSDACT annually in the spring. All domestic postsecondary institutions with a physical campus that receive Title IV funding under the Higher Education Act (i.e., those that participate in the Title IV, Federal Student Aid programs) must complete the annual data collection and survey. This data collection is required by the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act) and the Higher Education Opportunity Act. Among other crimes, the Clery Act requires the disclosure of statistics for reported incidents of sexual violence including: (1) primary criminal sex offenses to include rape, fondling, statutory rape, and incest; (2) certain hate crimes, including, but not limited to, those based on gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation; and (3) Violence Against Women Act offenses including dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. For all offenses, institutions must also disclose reportable crimes that were unfounded and subsequently withheld from their crime statistics for each of the three most recent calendar years.

**The School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS)** has served as the primary source of school-level data on crime and safety in America's public K-12 schools. The U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) conducted the survey nine times starting in the spring of the 1999-2000 academic year and most recently during the 2021-2022 academic year. The SSOCS is a nationally representative cross-sectional survey of about 4,800 public elementary and secondary schools. It was designed to provide estimates of school crime, discipline, disorder, and other related programs and policies in America's public schools. The

SSOCS was administered to public primary, middle, high, and combined school principals in the spring of even-numbered school years.

Approximately 4,800 public school principals were selected to receive the SSOCS questionnaire. The SSOCS sampling methodology was designed to ensure that enough responses would be received to provide reliable national estimates of all public schools, while taking into account several factors, including the level of instruction, student enrollment, and urbanicity. The survey was intentionally administered during the spring to allow principals to report the most complete information possible. The survey collected information on a variety of campus crime and safety topics, including sexual violence, school safety practices, school safety staffing levels, parent, and community involvement in making schools safer, school-based mental health services, staff training, limitations on crime prevention efforts and risk mitigation, student disciplinary issues, and other school characteristics and factors related to crime in schools. The SSOCS was retired after the 2021-2022 survey.

### **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)**

The EEOC collects and reports certain information for each charge of discrimination it receives, including each issue (*e.g.*, sexual harassment) alleged in the charge. Charge data is confidential, but the EEOC publishes [aggregated data](#), reports, and data visualizations on an annual basis, in addition to occasional data highlights and special reports. Data specifically of relevance to this report include [Enforcement and Litigation Statistics](#); [Federal Administrative Complaint Data](#); [Data Visualizations by type of charge, including Sexual Harassment Charge Data](#); and [EEOC Data Highlight: Sexual Harassment in Our Nation's Workplaces](#).