NATIONAL SURVEY OF FAMILY GROWTH
OVERVIEW

For OMH/NAS Workshop On:
Improving Collection of Indicators Of Criminal Justice System Involvement In Population Health Data Systems
March 30, 2016

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Purposes of the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG):

- **Addressing Section 306 of the Public Health Service Act (1944):**
  “NCHS shall collect statistics on...family formation, growth, & dissolution.”

- **Explaining variations in birth rates:** sexual activity, contraception, infertility.

- **Monitoring risk of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases:** Number of sexual partners, condom use by type of sex, drug use, same-sex contact.

- **Describing relationships & families:** Marriage, divorce, cohabitation; Roles of fathers in raising children.

- **Describing attitudes** about sex, marriage, parenthood.
## NSFG History in Brief

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Scope (15-44)</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Over-Samples</th>
<th>Average Interview Length</th>
<th>Contractor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Ever-Married Women</td>
<td>9,797</td>
<td>Black women</td>
<td>60 Min</td>
<td>NORC</td>
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<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Ever-Married Women</td>
<td>8,611</td>
<td>Black women</td>
<td>60 Min</td>
<td>Westat</td>
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<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>All Women</td>
<td>7,969</td>
<td>Black women &amp; teens 15-19</td>
<td>60 Min</td>
<td>Westat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>All Women</td>
<td>8,450</td>
<td>Black women</td>
<td>70 Min</td>
<td>Westat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>All Women</td>
<td>10,847</td>
<td>Black &amp; Hispanic women</td>
<td>100 Min</td>
<td>RTI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>All Women &amp; Men</td>
<td>12,571</td>
<td>Blacks, Hispanics, &amp; Teens</td>
<td>W= 85 min M= 60 min</td>
<td>U of Michigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2010</td>
<td>All Women &amp; Men</td>
<td>22,682</td>
<td>Blacks, Hispanics, &amp; Teens</td>
<td>W=~80 min M=~60 min</td>
<td>U of Michigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2013</td>
<td>All Women &amp; Men</td>
<td>10,416</td>
<td>Blacks, Hispanics, &amp; Teens</td>
<td>W=~80 min M=~60 min</td>
<td>U of Michigan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NSFG Funders

• National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
• Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)
• Office of Population Affairs (OPA)

• Children’s Bureau (Admin for Children, Youth and Families)
• ACF’s Office of Planning, Research, & Evaluation (OPRE)
• Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (OASPE)

• CDC’s Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention
• CDC’s Division of STD Prevention
• CDC’s Division of Reproductive Health
• CDC’s Division Cancer Prevention & Control
• CDC’s Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities
• CDC’s Division of Adolescent & School Health (new in 2016)
How the NSFG is Conducted

FIELDWORK

• Household screeners to locate eligibles: 15-44 (49) year olds
  • Only one person aged 15-44 (49) is selected per household
• Face-to-face interviewing with laptop computers, plus Audio computer-Assisted Self Interviewing (ACASI).
• Average interview length of 80 min for females and 60 min for males, including 15-20 min of ACASI content
• Highly skilled female interviewers, trained specifically on NSFG for one week
• $40 Incentive offered for the interview
• Teens 15-17 must have signed parental consent and also provide assent themselves.
• Interviews conducted in both English & Spanish (since the 1973 NSFG)

DESIGN

• Cross-sectional data, representative of men & women 15-44 (49) in U.S. household population (123 million in 2006-2010)
• June 2006: Moved from Periodic Surveys to Continuous Interviewing
  • NSFG interviewing will be done every year as long as funding permits
• New design was a success: 80% more interviews, cost per interview was one third lower.
• Larger samples, more frequent data releases.
NSFG questions on criminal justice involvement

• Asked only for men (all ages 15-44, now 15-49)
• Asked in ACASI section (self-administered)
• Don’t know or Refusal is always permitted

In the last 12 months, have you spent any time in a jail, prison or a juvenile detention facility? (yes/no)

If no to the above question:
Have you ever spent time in a jail, prison or juvenile detention center? (yes/no)
NSFG questions on criminal justice involvement

If yes to either jail question on prior slide:

Have you been in jail, prison, or a juvenile detention facility only one time or more than one time? (only 1 time; more than 1 time)

If only 1 time:
How long were you in jail, prison, or juvenile detention?

If more than 1 time:
The last time you were in jail, prison, or juvenile detention, how long were you in?

Response options:
One month or less
More than one month but less than one year
One year
More than one year
Thank you!

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