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# National Study of Young Adults, Longitudinal Cohort Pilot Study

**Final Report for NIJ Award  
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# Background and Purpose

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## Major Goals and Objectives

The extent and consequences of various forms of interpersonal violence (IV) among college-aged persons has been well-documented. Of particular interest is how risk might differ between those young adults who go to college compared to those that do not go to college. Studies of IV among young adults have largely focused on college students and very little is known about how risks differ from those that do not go to college.

To better understand the risks for, experiences with, and consequences of IV among young adults, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) made a competitive award in FY 2016 to Westat, in partnership with the University of Cincinnati and New York University, to fund the planning phase of a longitudinal study of IV among college-age men and women. IV includes sexual assault and rape, dating and domestic violence, stalking, violence committed by peers, and violence committed by strangers. In FY 2018, NIJ made a supplemental funding award to conduct a robust, comprehensive pilot test of key study elements to provide important information and direction to the larger study, especially around sampling, recruitment, and retention of study participants; measurement of IV; and mode of survey delivery. For the supplemental 24-month pilot phase, Westat and its partners developed and tested these key elements: (1) measurement of IV, including risk factors associated with and responses to experiences of IV; (2) sample design; (3) respondent recruitment and retention methods; (4) mode of survey administration; (5) data weighting and estimation; and (6) analysis, reporting and dissemination. The pilot effort resulted in a comprehensive plan to implement the longitudinal study, which is detailed in this report.

## Research Questions

The pilot is designed as a full evaluation of the proposed study design. It is designed to address the five research questions shown in Table 1, which cover the following five topics: (1) evaluation of the sample frame; (2) recruitment of respondents; (3) maintaining contact with recruits; (4) administering the baseline survey; and (5) micro-assessments. These topics are covered in more detail in the sections that follow.

**Table 1. Research questions to be addressed with the pilot**

<b>1. Sample Frame</b>
Does the sample design allow the study to generalize to the non-institutional population in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coverage of the ASL list?</li> <li>• Assessment of possible coverage bias?</li> </ul>
<b>2. Recruitment</b>
Which of the following procedures maximize the proportion of respondents that agree to participate? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Response rates and non-response bias from the recruitment methodology</li> <li>• Contact through parents versus directly with youth versus both (parents and youth)</li> <li>• Incentive levels (pre-paid; conditional)</li> <li>• Look and feel of contact materials</li> </ul>
<b>3. Maintaining Contact</b>
What are the best procedures to maintain contact with youth between recruitment and baseline surveys with regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mode of contacting (text, e-mail, snail-mail)?</li> <li>• Incentive levels?</li> </ul>
<b>4. Baseline Interview</b>
Does the baseline survey work as expected around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Response rates?</li> <li>• Time to complete the survey?</li> <li>• Item missing data?</li> <li>• Frequency distributions of key items?</li> <li>• Consistency across items?</li> </ul>
<b>5. Micro-assessment</b>
How do inter-wave micro-assessments perform in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Response rates?</li> <li>• Success in capturing triggering events?</li> <li>• Effects of assessment frequency on participation during Wave 2 interview?</li> </ul>

## Participants and Other Collaborating Organizations

### Participants

The study was designed to engage a national probability sample of 18-year-olds and following them over the 11-month data collection period (September 2019 – July 2020). The participants are described in more detail in the Methods and Recruitment sections of this report.

### Advisory Group

In 2017, the research team, in collaboration with NIJ, formed an Advisory Group comprising individuals from various sectors of the public, private, and academic research communities. The purpose of the group was to provide input into the study design and garner support for the larger study (see Appendix A for a list of Advisory Group members). A full group meeting was convened

in November 2017, when the group was introduced to the study and asked to provide input around the study design (e.g., sample design, measures, and participants' contact methods). After the meeting, the group was divided into small topic-driven work groups (e.g., engaging young adults, outcome measures, neighborhood factors). These smaller groups worked with the Westat team throughout 2017 and into the early months of 2018 to continue to provide input into the study design. Members were paid for their time.

## Methods

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The methods used for the pilot study were developed through a series of discussions and analyses among team members as well as consultation with Advisory Board members. In addition, all study methods, protocols, and materials were reviewed and approved by Westat's Institutional Review Board (IRB) through an initial full board review and then via several amendments. In this section, we describe the key elements of the study design.

### Sample Design

The initial requirements for this project called for a national probability sample of 18- to 24-year-olds. The team discussed two different designs. One was to sample a cohort of 18- to 24-year-olds and follow them over a 6-year period. The second was to start with 18-year-olds and follow them over 6 years. The latter design was chosen because it enabled the study to examine changes over the most critical periods of risk for college-age individuals.

Once the sample design decision was made, the team discussed potential sources for a sampling frame and recruitment methodology. The original request for proposal (RFP) asked for a national probability sample. A probability sample, whether national or for a smaller geographic area, requires significant resources. This is especially true for a survey of young people 18 years old, who are particularly difficult to contact and only constitute approximately 2 percent of the general population. Several approaches were considered, including:

- Sampling households and contacting them in-person to screen and recruit 18-year-olds for the study.
- Sampling high schools and asking for permission to survey seniors who are 18 years old.

- Sampling households by mail and asking if there are any household members who are at least 18 years old.

Approach 1 would result in a relatively high response rate but would be very expensive to implement, especially given the larger study would require a large sample size (e.g., greater than 10,000 for the main study). Due to high costs, this approach was not deemed feasible. Similarly, recruiting through high schools could potentially yield a relatively high response rate. But, the amount of effort needed to recruit schools, get required clearances to access students, and then implement the survey would be very time-consuming and expensive. It would also add approximately a year to the study (to adequately recruit high schools and obtain necessary clearances for data collection). This was not practical for the time allotted for the pilot contract.

In the end, the team chose to implement Approach 3. This method uses an address-based sample (ABS) to recruit participants. This approach could potentially yield a representative sample of eligible youth without incurring the expenses of in-person contacts. But even this approach could be very expensive given the number of households that would have to be screened to locate and recruit the target population (18-year-olds). To make the approach more manageable, the national sample frame was supplemented by a list from ASL Marketing. This list provided the addresses for households in which a high school senior was living. The list also includes demographic information such as gender and date of birth. By matching this list to a general population sample, it was possible to stratify the sample and oversample those households that matched to the list.

One disadvantage of using this list is that it excludes 18-year-olds who are *not* seniors from the sampling frame (e.g., those who have dropped out, or those who are behind or ahead in grade). The main concern here was with high school dropouts, who may be more at risk of sexual violence than high school seniors. This issue and possible solutions were discussed at length with the Advisory Board. In the end, it was decided to implement Approach 3 (use the ASL list). Given the difficulty of locating high school dropouts and then recruiting adequate numbers of them into the study to be able to gather meaningful data about them would be challenging and expensive. As such, the team decided not to make any special efforts to locate them. The sampling frame did include a general population strata that does not match to the list. This portion of the sample includes 18-year-olds who are not high school seniors. A more specialized project designed around high school dropouts is needed to understand more about this subpopulation.

Before implementing the full sampling plan, we evaluated the ASL Marketing list. First, we requested a county-level count of all addresses for high school seniors in the ASL database, and compared these to national-level estimates of high school seniors. We found that the number of names on the ASL list was about two-thirds the number of high school seniors nationally. We also asked the vendor to run a small test of the matching procedures. The ASL Marketing list had matches for 1.9 percent of addresses, which is close to what would be expected given the number of high school seniors nationwide.

The above results indicated that the ASL names and addresses showed promise as a way to supplement the general population sampling frame, which could improve the efficiency of recruiting subjects into the study. It could be, however, that the households identified on the list may no longer contain a high school senior. The only way to assess the quality of the list for our purposes was to include it in the actual recruitment of subjects.

Based on power calculations, response rate assumptions, and the 1.9 percent match rate, we determined that a general population sample of approximately 1 million addresses should be run through the matching procedures in order to achieve our goal of 1,800 recruited respondents.

To draw the final sample, a sample of 1 million records was drawn from a national database of all addresses in the United States. The resulting records were divided into three strata:

1. Addresses that match with the vendor list and have birth dates for high school seniors;
2. Addresses that match with the vendor list and do not have birth dates; and
3. Addresses that do not match with the vendor list.

The records that matched were divided by whether or not there was a birth date for each individual (strata 1 and 2). For strata 1, the plan was to send the recruitment request directly to the person on the ASL list. The recruitment letters were sent in batches that included those who, according to the birth date in the record, were known to be 18 years old at the time of the mailing. The final mailing included all those that did not have a birth date (strata 2). This maximized the number of persons who would be 18 during the recruitment period.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The first question on the recruitment survey verified that the respondent was at least 18 years old. If they were not, they were not allowed to continue.

A small sample of 2,000 cases was sent early in the field period to test the assumptions of response rate and list quality. The results of this initial test resulted in significantly higher response rates than were predicted, so the sample sizes for subsequent waves were reduced in order to come closer to our target number of recruits. Table 2 shows the distribution of the final sample of 1 million records by the three sampling strata.

**Table 2. Sample sizes and rates**

<b>Strata</b>	<b>General population sample</b>	<b>Percent of general population sample</b>	<b>Final sample</b>	<b>Percent sampled</b>
Matched: with birth date	12,728	1.2%	5,586	43.90%
Matched: without birth date	2,782	0.3%	963	34.60%
Unmatched	1,005,877	98.5%	7,500	0.70%
<b>Total sample</b>	<b>1,021,387</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>14,049</b>	<b>1.40%</b>

As expected, most of the initial sample are in the unmatched strata (98.5%). Approximately 1.5 percent of the households were identified in one of the two stratum that matched to an ASL record.

The sample drawn oversampled the matched strata. Stratum 1 and 2 were sampled at 43.9 and 34.6 percent rates, respectively, while the unmatched strata drew .7 percent for the final sample. For purposes of this pilot study, the sample design heavily oversampled the first two strata. The expectation was that the matched stratum would yield the most eligible sample. The team wanted to make sure that enough 18-year-olds were recruited into the pilot to be able to administer the main surveys (Wave 1 and 2 Surveys and micro-assessments). On the other hand, there was a need to include enough individuals from the unmatched group to evaluate the response rates at each stage of the study. This group represents the vast majority of the national population and will have to be included in some form in the larger study.

## Recruitment Process

This section describes the process and materials used to recruit subjects.

## Mailing Materials

Sampled persons were mailed invitations using U.S. Postal Service first class mail. The invitation directed sample members to log on to the study website using a unique access code. Once logged on, respondents were asked to complete a survey that asked for background and current contact information. Mailing materials and protocols were slightly different depending on the stratum.

Table 3 shows the materials that were included in each of the four recruitment contacts, by stratum.<sup>2</sup>

**Table 3. Recruitment materials by stratum**

<b>Materials and types of mailings</b>	<b>Stratum 1: Matched with date of birth</b>	<b>Stratum 2: Matched without date of birth</b>	<b>Stratum 3: Unmatched to list</b>
<b>1. Initial Invitation</b>			
- 1 <sup>st</sup> Class Letter	✓	✓	✓
- Incentive flyer	✓	✓	✓
<b>2. Postcard reminder</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>3. Express Letter (sent via FedEx)</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>4. Parental Letter</b>	✓	✓	
- In a sealed envelope			
Letter to youth	✓	✓	
Hard copy of survey	✓		
<b>Final Letter</b>			✓
- Hard copy of screener question			✓

In the fourth and final mailings, sample members in stratum 1 were sent a hard-copy version of the recruitment questionnaire, along with a prepaid return envelope. Sample members in stratum 3 (unmatched to vendor list) were sent a hard-copy version of a screening questionnaire, which asked whether any 18-year-old high school seniors live at the residence. Sample members in stratum 2 were not sent any hard-copy data collection instruments, as we could not verify their age due to lack of date of birth information. The web version of the survey, which was available to everyone, could be used by these respondents if they wanted to take the survey.<sup>3</sup>

Several key features of the recruitment mailing materials were pretested with 18- and 19-year olds. The goal of this pretesting was to get a sense of young adults' usual behaviors around opening their mail, and to get broad ideas about what types of recruitment messaging and themes appeal to them.

<sup>2</sup> Appendix B provides the initial letters sent to recruit subjects in each strata.

<sup>3</sup> The first question on the web survey had a question asking the respondent's age. If the person was less than 18 years old, the survey was terminated.

The results of this pretesting and discussion with Advisory Group members were used to inform the development of the final mailing materials.

## Recruitment Incentives

All first requests included a \$2 cash incentive as well as a promised incentive, in the form of an Amazon gift code, to complete the recruitment survey. After a respondent submitted the recruitment survey, they were taken to the study homepage where they were immediately presented with their gift code. We implemented two experiments around the incentives. First, we varied the value of the promised incentive to complete the recruitment survey (\$20 vs. \$30). We also offered half of the respondents an extra \$10 gift code for completing the survey within 2 weeks of receiving the invitation. In total, respondents submitting recruitment surveys could earn between \$20 and \$40 dollars, depending on the experimental condition.

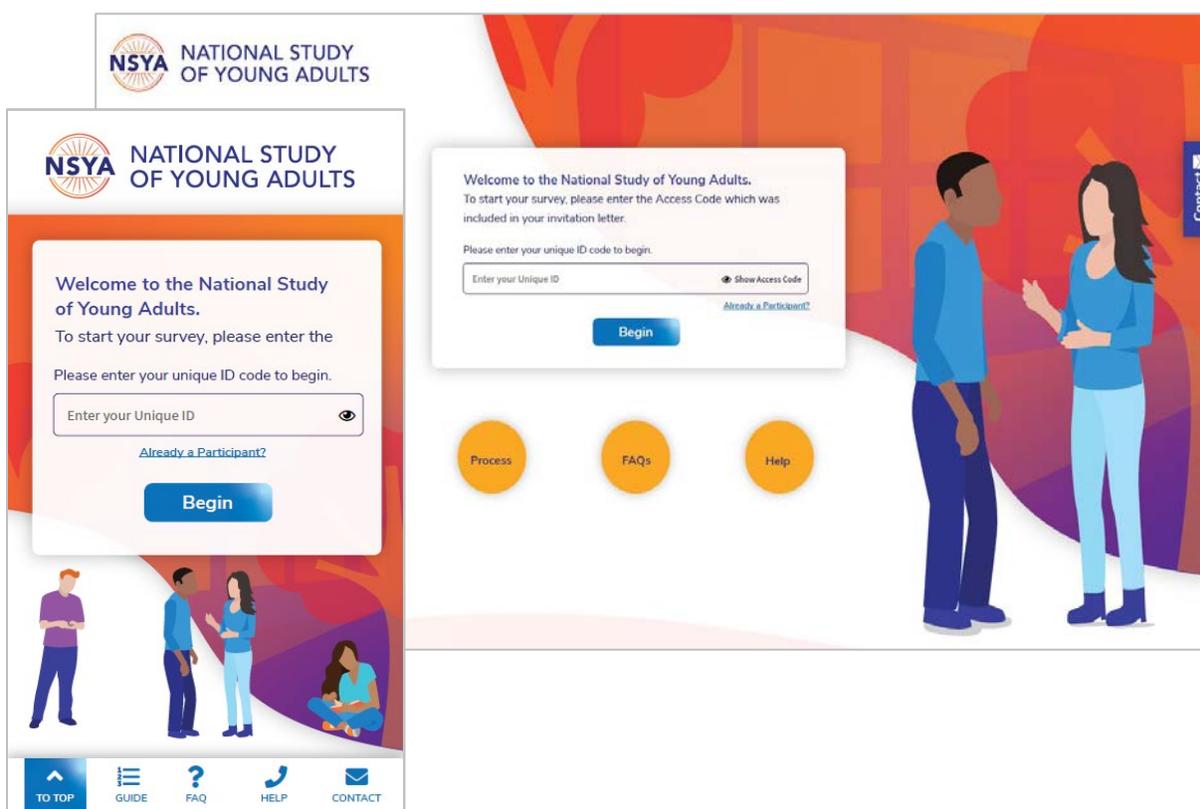
For stratum 3 (unmatched), a \$5 Amazon gift code was promised to households that completed the screener questionnaire and indicated that they did not have an 18-year-old senior living in the household.

## Website Design

Study participants were asked to go to the study website to complete the recruitment questionnaire. The first question asks participants to confirm that they are at least 18 years old. Details on the questionnaire content are included in the next section of this report.

Westat's web design and usability specialists developed the visual design for the study website. They implemented a color scheme and layout that would appeal to young adults. The team agreed that especially for a young adult population, it was important that the website design for mobile devices was equally attractive and user friendly. Figure 1 shows the design and layout of the log-in screens for both desktop and mobile applications. Appendix C includes a flow chart summarizing the contents and flow of the study website.

Figure 1. Website log-in pages, desktop and mobile



## Website Contents

After signing into the study website, several resources were available to participants on the homepage (see Figure 2). Across the top and side of the screen (or at the bottom on mobile), the study website had links to the following pages:

- “Resources” – Contains several resources for participants who experience any distress as a result of the study topic. This includes phone numbers, text numbers, and websites.
- “FAQs” – Lists frequently asked questions about the purpose and content of the study, confidentiality guidelines, and risks and incentives for participation.
- “Account” – This page lists the participant’s current contact information (including an option to update contact information), and all Amazon gift codes earned by the participant up to that point.
- “Contact Us” – Pulls up a message box that will send an email to the study team.

Figure 2. Study website homepage and dashboard

The screenshot shows the NSYA (National Study of Young Adults) website dashboard for a user named Andrew. The page features a navigation bar with links for 'Homepage', 'Resources', 'FAQs', 'Account', and 'Logout'. A 'Contact Us' button is located on the right side. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Welcome Andrew!**: A personalized greeting at the top of the dashboard.
- My Tasks**: A list of tasks with associated rewards and completion dates:

Task	Reward	Completion Date
Check back in the fall for the next survey.	-	-
Study Sign-Up	+\$20, +15 pts	6/5/2019
Update Contact Info	+\$5, +5 pts	9/24/2019
- Achievements (Level 1/5)**: A progress indicator showing the user is at Level 1, with a 'View All' link. Below this is a graphic of a '1 Level' badge and the text '5 points to Level 2'.
- Total Earned**: A graphic showing a piggy bank and coins, with a banner indicating a total of \$27 earned.

A blue question mark icon is located in the bottom right corner of the dashboard area.

The center of the homepage contains a list of all tasks that the participant has been invited to complete, along with any corresponding incentives offered. If a task is completed by the assigned deadline, the task is marked with a green checkmark in the task list, and the total amount of money earned so far by the participant is tracked and summed in the “total earned” tile on the homepage.

## Experiments

This section outlines each condition of the methodological experiments implemented in this study.

## Incentives

This study carried out several experiments with the goal of increasing participation and retention, as well as getting an idea of what level of incentive is most cost-efficient for this particular age group.

Incentives experiments were carried out for each of the following data collection points:

- Recruitment Survey
  - \$20 vs. \$30 Amazon gift code for completing the survey
  - \$10 Early Bird bonus for completing survey in 2 weeks vs. None
- Contact information update
  - \$5 Amazon gift code for updating or confirming contact information vs. None
- Wave 1 Survey
  - \$40 or \$60 Amazon gift code for completing the survey
- Wave 2 Survey
  - \$40 or \$60 Amazon gift code for completing the survey

## Gamification

Gamification, another method tested, was used to maximize engagement and retention. It uses gaming features like reward points, progress tracking, and virtual rewards to further engage and incentivize participants to remain in the study. Two-thirds of participants were assigned to the gamification condition in which they were awarded non-monetary “points” for completing study

tasks. After accruing a set number of points, respondents went to the next “level” of participation and received a virtual “badge.” The participant’s current level and badge are displayed in the “Achievements” tile of the study homepage (see Figure 3). Half of those assigned to the gamification condition also received monetary rewards for achieving badges.

## Micro-assessments

A third type of experiment was to administer short “micro” assessments at regular intervals between the two web surveys. The purpose of these micro-assessments was twofold: (1) to provide detailed longitudinal data on victimization, perpetration, and other behaviors over short periods of time; and (2) to increase engagement and retention of participants through repeated contact between the two survey administrations (Wave 1 and 2).

Two-thirds of Wave 1 respondents were assigned to one of two micro-assessment conditions. Half were invited to complete them once every 4 weeks, and half were asked to complete them once every 2 weeks.

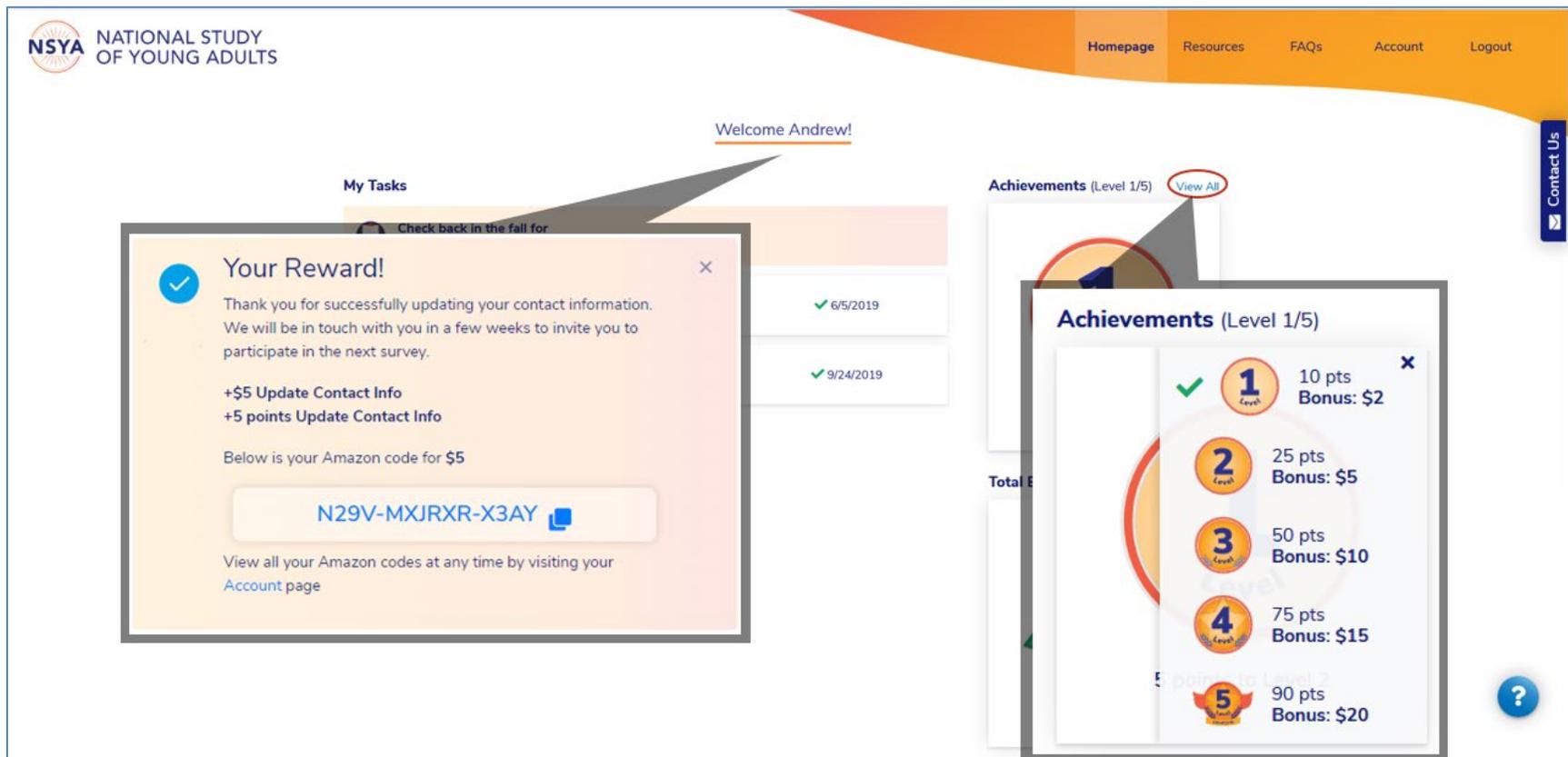
## Survey Instruments

This section gives an overview of the survey contents and procedures for each of the instruments used in this study.

### Recruitment Survey

When a participant is first recruited and goes to the study website, they are directed to a consent statement that gives a detailed overview of the purpose of the study, risks and benefits, and confidentiality policies. After reviewing the consent form, the respondent is asked to enter their date of birth. Respondents that were not yet 18 years old were told they were ineligible to participate. Those 18 years and older were asked to complete the recruitment survey.

Figure 3. Gamification and incentive delivery



The recruitment survey consisted of four general sections: (1) respondent demographics, (2) internet and social media, (3) lifetime victimization and perpetration, and (4) lifestyle and values. The victimization and perpetration section included questions on intimate partner violence (IPV), stalking, and nonconsensual sexual contact. These questions were developed over the course of several months by team subject-area experts and methodologists, using validated scales. Some scales were modified slightly to use more current language.

The recruitment survey was estimated to take 15 minutes to complete, on average. After submitting the survey, respondents were given a \$20 or \$30 Amazon gift code, depending on the experimental condition to which they were assigned.

### **Wave 1 Survey**

Starting on November 6th, 2019, all 18- and 19-year-old respondents to the recruitment survey were invited to complete the Wave 1 Survey. The Wave 1 Survey was administered online only, and invitations were sent via email and text message. Respondents were sent two reminders, 4 and 8 days after the initial invitation, but the survey remained available and accepted responses for 1 month following the initial invitation.

The Wave 1 Survey contained questions on respondent demographics, psychological and social risk and protective factors, and past 6-month victimization and perpetration of IPV, stalking, and nonconsensual sexual contact.

The Wave 1 Survey was estimated to take 40 minutes to complete. After submitting the survey, respondents were given a \$40 or \$60 Amazon gift code, depending on the experimental condition.

### **Wave 2 Survey**

Starting on May 4th, 2020, 6 months after completion of the Wave 1 Survey, all Wave 1 respondents were invited to complete the Wave 2 Survey. Administration of Wave 2 was almost identical to Wave 1, with email and text invitations, and two reminders sent 4 and 8 days after the initial invitation. The initial Wave 2 invitation was sent out exactly 6 months after the respondent completed the Wave 1 Survey, or 2 weeks following completion of their final micro-assessment. This means that invitations for Wave 2 were sent out over the course of 6 weeks (May 6th through

June 13th, 2020). The Wave 2 Survey closed 2 weeks after the final Wave 2 reminders were sent out on May 30th.

The content of the Wave 2 Survey was almost identical to Wave 1, with small adjustments made to questions on respondent demographics and relationship status.

The Wave 2 was estimated to take 40 minutes to complete. After submitting the survey, respondents were given a \$40 or \$60 Amazon gift code, depending on the experimental condition to which they were assigned.

### **Micro-assessments**

Between the Wave 1 and Wave 2 Surveys, two-thirds of the Wave 1 respondents were invited to complete short “micro assessments” at regular intervals. Half of these were invited to complete micro assessments every 4 weeks (monthly), and half every 2 weeks (biweekly).

As with the Wave 2 Survey, the timing of micro-assessment invitations was dependent on when the respondent completed the Wave 1 Survey. Respondents in the biweekly condition received a micro-assessment invitation 2 weeks after they completed the Wave 1 Survey, and respondents in the monthly condition received their first micro-assessment invitation 4 weeks after completing the Wave 1 Survey.

Micro-assessments were estimated to take 10 minutes to complete, and respondents were given a \$10 Amazon gift code for each completed micro-assessment.

## **Methodological Results**

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### **Yield and Representativeness**

#### **Yield Rates**

Study participants were recruited from June through September 2019. This timeframe coincided with the time when high school seniors are graduating and transitioning to either post-secondary education or non-educational activities (e.g., labor force activity). The first wave of the longitudinal

survey was planned for the fall of 2019 when subjects had already made this transition (e.g., enrolled in school, got a job, or looked for work).

The recruitment survey was administered in four waves. The first wave was sent out with a small sample (n=2,000) to estimate response rates. This was used to scale the remaining waves to achieve the desired sample size of 1,800 participants. The final three waves were timed to reach those who were 18 years old at the time of the mailing, as determined by the vendor list. The matched strata from ASL that did not have a birth date (strata 2) was included in the final wave to maximize the chances that the senior would turn 18 in time to participate in the study.

A total of 1,922 individuals filled out the recruitment survey. The yield rates varied by the different strata. For stratas 1 and 2, it was a function of two factors (Table 4): (1) Is there a person living at the address by the specified name? and (2) How frequently does the named person respond? The matched strata with a birth date achieved a much higher yield rate than the strata without a birth date (30.1% vs. 8.2%). The yield for the unmatched strata was also a function of two factors: (1) Was there an eligible person living in the household, and (2) Did the eligible person respond to the survey? The unmatched strata had a relatively low yield rate (2.1%). This was expected because only a small percentage of these households had an 18-year-old living at the address. The recruitment survey took, on average, 12.4 minutes to complete, with a median time of 11.3 minutes.

**Table 4. Recruitment yield rates by stratum**

<b>Strata</b>	<b>Initial sample</b>	<b>Recruitment survey</b>	<b>Yield rate</b>
<b>Matched: With birth date</b>	<b>5,586</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>30.1%</b>
<b>Matched: Without birth date</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>8.2%</b>
<b>Unmatched</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
<b>Total ABS records</b>	<b>14,049</b>	<b>1,922</b>	<b>13.6%</b>

As noted in Table 5, the yield rates reflect both the proportion of households that have an eligible member in them, and the tendency for an eligible person to respond to our request to join the study. The eligibility rate is an external factor the study does not have any control over. However, the yield rate of those that are eligible is an important indicator of the actual response rate. For example, suppose we are surveying a sample of 100 households of which 10 have an 18-year-old. If all those eligible persons in the 10 households respond and none of those without an eligible person respond, the yield rate is 10 percent (10/100 = 10%). But the actual response rate among those eligible is 100 percent.

To assess how successful we were in recruiting and retaining 18-year-olds, a response ratio was computed by applying survey base-weights for the 18-year-olds. These weights reflect the probability of selection from the national sample frame. Summing these weights for the 18-year-olds provides an estimate of the total number of these individuals in the country based on those who responded to the survey. Dividing this total by the actual number of 18-year-olds in the United States provides an estimate of the proportion of eligible individuals who responded to the survey. The weighted number of 18-year-olds that were recruited is 2,336,198. Dividing this by the estimated number of 18-year-olds in the country (4,249,922 per Current Population Survey data) is 55 percent. This is the estimate of the percent of eligible 18-year-olds who responded to the survey.

**Table 5. Population totals for recruitment and Wave 1 Surveys**

Survey (18-year-old respondents only)	18-year-olds represented	
	Base weighted count	Percent of population
Recruitment	2,336,198	55%
Wave 1	1,667,594	39%
<i>Estimated number of 18-year-olds in U.S. population (per CPS)</i>	4,249,922	100%

The same response ratio for those responding to the Wave 1 Survey was 39 percent, due to a drop-off between the recruitment survey and the Wave 1 Survey. Approximately 65 percent of participants that completed the recruitment survey continued to complete the Wave 1 Survey in the fall (Table 6). However, of the participants that completed the Wave 1 Survey, about 90 percent went on to complete the Wave 2 Survey in the spring.

**Table 6. Conditional participation rates for Wave 1 and Wave 2 Surveys**

Survey	Participation rate				
	Unweighted		Base weighted		
	n	%	N	%	SE
Wave 1 (conditional on recruitment response)	1,178	64.5	1,958,763	67.4	3.0
Wave 2 (conditional on W1 response)	1,071	90.9	1,729,187	88.3	3.0

## Representativeness

Another measure of quality is how well the respondents in the survey represent the national population of 18-year-olds. Comparing the totals without the survey weights provides a picture of representativeness without considering the sample design. Using the distributions with the survey base weights provides an indication of how well the sample corresponds to the national population,

while considering the sample design. While the majority of the respondents come from the matched strata, the unmatched strata represent the largest proportion of households in the country.

Considering the extent to which the matched and unmatched strata differ will be an important consideration when deciding how to allocate the sample across these strata for the larger study. If these two types of strata are very similar, it will be possible to allocate more sample to the matched strata. The opposite will be the case if the two strata differ on important characteristics.

Table 7 shows these data for both the initial recruitment and Wave 1 respondents.

Even if the initially recruited sample is relatively representative of the general population, representativeness could change over the course of data collection if certain types of people are more or less likely to drop out of subsequent waves of the study.

With respect to recruitment, the weighted data slightly underestimate the percent of Hispanics (19% vs. 23.1%) and Whites (68.7% vs 73.3%). The largest discrepancies are for those without a high school degree and income. In the case of income, there is a higher percentage of respondents in households in the lowest income categories (e.g., 21.3% vs. 14.5%). But this may be a measurement error related to the extent to which an 18-year-old can provide an accurate estimate of their household's income. With respect to education, there are many more individuals reporting they have a high school diploma (76% vs. 58.7%). There is some underrepresentation of those without a diploma (18.3% vs 27.3%) and those with some college (5.7% vs. 14.0%). The weights tend to bring the education and race differences more in line with the population totals, indicating the unmatched sample had more Whites and those without a high school diploma than the matched sample.



Table 7. Comparison of selected respondent characteristics for the recruitment survey and national population of 18 year olds

	Recruitment (Jun-Aug 2019)				Wave 1 (Nov 2019)				18-year-old U.S. pop. (CPS July 2019)	
	Unweighted		Base weighted		Unweighted		Base weighted			
<b>Are you of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origin?</b>										
Yes	439	23.3%	573,079	19.0%	275	23.2%	329,154	16.0%	983,837	23.1%
No	1,447	76.7%	2,443,085	81.0%	911	76.8%	1,722,995	84.0%	3,266,085	76.9%
<b>What is your race?</b>										
White	1,112	59.0%	2,076,727	68.7%	726	61.2%	1,469,876	71.4%	3,115,650	73.3%
Black	326	17.3%	438,375	14.5%	181	15.3%	249,056	12.1%	613,932	14.4%
American Indian/Alaska Native	13	0.7%	22,118	0.7%	9	0.8%	20,911	1.0%	42,473	1.0%
Asian	77	4.1%	64,442	2.1%	54	4.6%	57,500	2.8%	290,129	6.8%
Other, or more than one	357	18.9%	421,868	14.0%	216	18.2%	262,476	12.7%	187,738	4.4%
<b>What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed?</b>										
No high school diploma	264	14.0%	554,690	18.3%	132	11.1%	398,014	19.3%	1,158,935	27.3%
HS diploma or equivalent	1,516	80.3%	2,297,307	76.0%	977	82.2%	1,532,254	74.4%	2,495,348	58.7%
Some college	109	5.8%	172,741	5.7%	79	6.6%	130,154	6.3%	595,639	14.0%
<b>Which category represents the total combined income of all members of this household during the past 12 months?</b>										
Under \$25,000	340	18.5%	627,399	21.3%	190	16.3%	291,017	14.4%	616,954	14.5%
\$25,000 - \$49,999	430	23.4%	604,794	20.5%	269	23.1%	449,890	22.2%	878,897	20.7%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	391	21.3%	732,864	24.9%	251	21.6%	540,241	26.7%	724,123	17.0%
\$75,000 and over	674	36.7%	981,130	33.3%	453	39.0%	745,865	36.8%	2,029,949	47.8%

The patterns for the Wave 1 Survey are similar, although the differences with the population totals vary somewhat by category. There are slightly fewer Hispanics when compared to the recruitment survey (19.0% for recruitment, 16.0% for Wave 1) and slightly more Whites (68.7% for recruitment survey, 71.4% for Wave 1). Similar to the recruitment survey, there is still significantly fewer individuals without a high school diploma relative to the national population.

Table 8 provides a more detailed look at the attrition that occurred between the recruitment and Wave 1 and 2 surveys. Overall, 67 percent of those recruited participated in the Wave 1 Survey (weighted response rate). Examining the weighted rates for the specific subgroups, those who dropped out between the two surveys were more likely to be Hispanic, Black, low income, had not attended school in the last 3 months, and were not living with their parents at the time of the recruitment survey. There were no differences in the percentage who had a computer or used the internet.

Approximately 59 percent of the recruited sample participated in the Wave 2 Survey; this constitutes 88 percent of Wave 1 respondents. The patterns with respect to responses by subgroups are very similar to the Wave 1 patterns, described above.

A common concern with longitudinal surveys on sensitive topics is that attrition will be greater among respondents that have experienced a sensitive event like victimization. For this reason, we also looked at differential attrition by responses to victimization and perpetration questions in the recruitment survey (Tables 9 and 10). Participation rates were relatively similar between respondent who did and did not experience victimization and perpetration.

Table 8. Percent of those recruited that participated in Wave 1 and Wave 2 Surveys by selected personal characteristics

Recruitment survey info	Wave 1 participation rate					Wave 2 participation rate				
	Unweighted		Base weights			Unweighted		Base weights		
	n	%	N	%	SE	n	%	N	%	SE
<b>Race</b>										
Hispanic	272	64.5	310,055	56.4	7.6	256	94.1	242,974	78.4	10.0
White	599	66.5	1,229,450	72.4	4.2	540	90.2	1,113,002	90.5	3.2
Black	167	57.6	244,830	57.3	11.5	152	91.0	240,302	98.2	0.6
Asian	52	72.2	56,897	90.4	5.1	49	94.2	55,991	98.4	1.3
Other/multiple	88	63.3	117,532	69.4	14.8	74	84.1	76,918	65.4	20.7
<b>Education completed</b>										
Less than HS	131	51.4	379,518	71.1	7.0	110	84.0	336,791	88.7	6.9
HS diploma/GED	970	66.3	1,467,890	66.1	4.2	889	91.6	1,300,744	88.6	3.3
Some college	77	72.0	111,356	72.3	13.9	72	93.5	91,653	82.3	17.7
<b>HH Income</b>										
Under \$25,000	188	57.7	290,413	46.6	8.8	171	91.0	285,282	98.2	0.6
\$25,000 - \$49,999	269	64.8	449,890	74.9	6.5	246	91.4	406,559	90.4	5.2
\$50,000 - \$74,999	250	64.9	521,745	73.2	8.3	227	90.8	423,832	81.2	7.4
\$75,000 - \$99,999	252	66.0	308,831	69.6	6.5	230	91.3	283,996	92.0	6.2
\$100,000+	196	70.3	355,079	78.4	6.7	177	90.3	305,287	86.0	7.7
<b>Attended school in past 3 months?</b>										
Yes	1,102	65.7	1,793,127	69.9	3.0	1,005	91.2	1,584,763	88.4	3.1
No	76	51.4	165,637	48.6	9.9	66	86.8	144,424	87.2	11.7
<b>Had a job last week?</b>										
Yes	709	65.2	1,077,853	67.3	3.8	642	90.6	940,796	87.3	4.0
No	468	63.7	880,608	67.5	4.4	428	91.5	788,089	89.5	4.1
<b>Household received public assistance?</b>										
Yes	155	60.8	383,906	75.3	7.3	138	89.0	352,911	91.9	5.4
No	1,015	65.2	1,572,443	65.7	3.4	926	91.2	1,374,163	87.4	3.5
<b>Are you currently living with a parent or guardian?</b>										
Yes, both parents	712	66.9	1,065,377	69.0	4.2	653	91.7	959,454	90.1	3.5
Yes, one parent, or one or more guardians	427	62.5	782,975	69.7	5.4	384	89.9	679,025	86.7	4.9
No	39	50.6	110,412	46.3	16.2	34	87.2	90,708	82.2	19.6
<b>At home, do you have access to a computer?</b>										
Yes	1,094	65.6	1,743,798	67.8	2.8	999	91.3	1,525,513	87.5	3.3
No	83	53.2	214,663	64.0	14.4	71	85.5	203,372	94.7	4.3

**Table 8. Percent of those recruited that participated in Wave 1 and Wave 2 Surveys by selected personal characteristics (continued)**

Recruitment survey info	Wave 1 participation rate					Wave 2 participation rate				
	Unweighted		Base weights			Unweighted		Base weights		
	n	%	N	%	SE	n	%	N	%	SE
<b>At home, do you have access to a smartphone?</b>										
Yes	1,162	64.9	1,917,546	67.5	3.0	1,059	91.1	1,707,371	89.0	3.0
No	15	45.5	40,916	63.4	32.9	11	73.3	21,514	52.6	58.4
<b>How often do you use the internet on a computer or smartphone?</b>										
Almost constantly	563	64.5	859,513	64.5	4.3	518	92.0	747,290	86.9	4.4
Several times a day	527	65.0	974,050	70.7	4.0	474	89.9	877,607	90.1	3.7
About once a day	31	59.6	71,608	74.5	20.9	28	90.3	52,509	73.3	29.0
Several times a week	35	67.3	28,758	55.2	39.5	30	85.7	27,249	94.8	9.7
Less often	22	59.5	24,835	52.2	45.4	21	95.5	24,533	98.8	3.7

Table 9. Participation rates by victimization reported in recruitment survey

Recruitment survey info	Wave 1 participation rate					Wave 2 participation rate				
	Unweighted		Base weights			Unweighted		Base weights		
	n	%	N	%	SE	n	%	N	%	SE
<b>Have you ever been in a partnered relationship?</b>										
No	442	65.3	743,445	61.5	3.9	410	92.8	588,232	79.1	6.6
Yes	734	64.2	1,214,715	71.6	4.1	659	89.8	1,140,351	93.9	2.4
<b>Experienced emotional IPV</b>										
No	435	66.9	755,770	71.2	5.8	387	89.0	707,750	93.6	2.9
Yes	299	60.6	458,945	72.4	4.9	272	91.0	432,601	94.3	4.1
<b>Experienced physical IPV</b>										
No	573	66.5	942,977	72.1	5.9	518	90.4	874,650	92.8	3.1
Yes	160	57.1	271,437	69.9	8.0	140	87.5	265,400	97.8	0.7
<b>Experienced stalking</b>										
No	939	64.4	1,437,482	65.5	3.7	855	91.1	1,269,431	88.3	3.7
Yes	239	65.3	521,281	73.1	5.6	216	90.4	459,756	88.2	5.5
<b>Experienced touching by force or inability to consent</b>										
No	1,001	64.2	1,640,994	65.0	3.6	911	91.0	1,452,938	88.5	3.3
Yes	170	66.7	307,987	83.2	7.4	153	90.0	266,468	86.5	8.2
<b>Experienced penetration by force or inability to consent</b>										
No	1,059	64.2	1,743,759	66.1	3.4	963	90.9	1,535,698	88.1	3.2
Yes	111	68.9	204,920	79.9	10.7	100	90.1	183,406	89.5	9.3
<b>Experienced attempted penetration by force or inability to consent</b>										
No	1,065	64.5	1,748,427	67.1	3.4	969	91.0	1,540,365	88.1	3.2
Yes	105	65.2	182,059	67.0	12.6	95	90.5	160,846	88.3	10.9

Table 10. Participation rates by perpetration reported in recruitment survey

Recruitment survey info	Wave 1 participation rate					Wave 2 participation rate				
	Unweighted		Base weights			Unweighted		Base weights		
	n	%	N	%	SE	n	%	N	%	SE
<b>Have you ever been in a partnered relationship?</b>										
No	442	65.3	743,445	61.5	3.9	410	92.8	588,232	79.1	6.6
Yes	734	64.2	1,214,715	71.6	4.1	659	89.8	1,140,351	93.9	2.4
<b>Perpetrated emotional IPV</b>										
No	555	65.4	948,069	75.3	4.9	494	89.0	877,931	92.6	3.0
Yes	178	60.5	266,344	61.0	8.6	164	92.1	262,119	98.4	0.5
<b>Perpetrated physical IPV</b>										
No	647	65.5	1,056,283	74.1	4.8	580	89.6	984,334	93.2	2.8
Yes	85	55.9	157,828	58.7	11.3	77	90.6	155,413	98.5	0.7
<b>Perpetrated stalking</b>										
No	1,145	64.6	1,886,551	67.6	3.3	1,043	91.1	1,676,678	88.9	2.7
Yes	30	61.2	71,307	62.9	21.6	25	83.3	51,603	72.4	29.1
<b>Perpetrated touching by force or inability to consent</b>										
No	1,165	64.5	1,921,307	67.0	3.0	1,059	90.9	1,692,033	88.1	3.0
Yes	6	75.0	27,674	97.9	4.4	5	83.3	27,372	98.9	2.5
<b>Perpetrated penetration by force or inability to consent</b>										
No	1,162	64.6	1,920,402	67.2	3.0	1,058	91.0	1,691,731	88.1	3.0
Yes	9	64.3	28,580	95.0	8.5	6	66.7	27,674	96.8	6.4
<b>Perpetrated attempted penetration by force or inability to consent</b>										
No	1,169	64.6	1,940,709	67.2	3.0	1,063	90.9	1,711,434	88.2	3.0
Yes	3	60.0	8,575	93.4	43.4	2	66.7	8,273	96.5	46.4

## Methods Experiments – Results

### Incentives

Overall, the effect of incentive experiments on participation rates was small. Table 11 shows how weighted and unweighted participation rates varied by incentive condition. There was a small effect of the initial incentive offered at recruitment (\$20 vs. \$30). The difference in the weighted rates between \$20 and \$30 is statistically significant (i.e., 1.9 vs. 2.6). The early bird incentive did not have an effect on the overall participation rate at recruitment.

The higher \$60 incentive offered to complete Wave 1 and Wave 2 had slightly higher participation rates when compared to the \$40 incentive. However, none of these differences are statistically significant.

**Table 11.** Percent participating by experimental incentive condition

Incentive experiments	Yield rate				
	Unweighted		Base weights		
	n	%	N	%	SE
<b>Recruitment promised</b>					
\$20	888	12.6	1,219,996	1.9	0.2
\$30	937	13.4	1,686,785	2.6	0.2
<b>Recruitment early bird</b>					
None	940	13.3	1,357,338	2.1	0.2
\$10	885	12.7	1,549,443	2.4	0.2
<b>Wave 1</b>					
\$40	561	61.7	861,765	62.6	4.3
\$60	617	67.4	1,096,998	71.7	4.3
<b>Wave 2</b>					
\$40	507	90.4	746,826	86.7	4.1
\$60	564	91.4	982,361	89.5	4.4

### Gamification

The effect of gamification on participation is minimal, and possibly negative. When examining the unweighted data, there are no differences between the groups (Table 12). There is a slight tendency for the bonus condition to produce slightly higher rates. However, these differences are very small. For the weighted rates, there are indications that gamification had the opposite effect than intended. The “no gamification” condition is higher than the “gamification with a bonus” condition for most

comparisons, although only one of these differences is statistically significant ( $p < .05$ ). It is also higher for the “gamification without the bonus,” but not statistically significant.

**Table 12. Participation rates by gamification condition**

No gamification %	Unweighted			Base weights				
	Gamification only %	Gamification + bonus \$ %	No gamification %	No gamification SE	Gamification only %	Gamification only SE	Gamification + bonus \$ %	Gamification + bonus \$ SE
34.0	35.7	38.2	41.3	7.2	36.7	5.6	34.2	5.0
65.0	63.0	65.6	79.1	3.9	66.2	5.5	57.3	5.8
90.4	89.9	92.3	89.7	4.6	87.0	5.4	88.0	5.6
57.3	60.9	66.9	58.7	9.4	62.1	8.7	81.7	6.9
96.6	96.6	97.4	93.7	4.4	95.6	4.0	93.9	5.8
9.5	10.1	10.1	9.8	0.8	9.9	0.8	9.7	1.6
5.4	5.2	5.4	5.7	0.2	5.3	0.4	5.7	0.2

## Micro-assessments

Overall, participation rates for the micro-assessments were quite high. In both micro-assessment conditions, over 96 percent of Wave 1 respondents completed at least one micro-assessment (Table 13). Almost half of the participants in the biweekly micro-assessment condition completed all 12 of the assessments, while almost three-quarters of participants in the monthly condition completed all six of the assessments.

**Table 13. Micro-assessment participation rates by experimental condition (unweighted)**

Number of MAs completed	n	%	Cumulative %
<b>Monthly condition</b>			
6	287	74.7	74.7
5	32	8.3	83.1
4	22	5.7	88.8
3	11	2.9	91.7
2	15	3.9	95.6
1	4	1.0	96.6
0	13	3.4	100.0
<b>Biweekly condition</b>			
12	195	49.2	49.2
11	65	16.4	65.7
10	30	7.6	73.2
9	17	4.3	77.5
8	16	4.0	81.6
7	16	4.0	85.6
6	12	3.0	88.6
5	11	2.8	91.4
4	8	2.0	93.4
3	2	0.5	93.9
2	4	1.0	94.9
1	9	2.3	97.2
0	11	2.8	100.0

There was no significant effect of the micro-assessments on the response rates at Wave 2 (Table 14). The unweighted rates are almost identical across the three experimental groups, around 90 percent. For the weighted rates, the group without a micro-assessment had the lowest rate (84%), the monthly micro-assessments had the highest rate (94%), and the biweekly group had rates in between the other two groups (87%). Taken literally, it seems that that micro-assessments led to higher participation rates at Wave 2. The difference between the unweighted and weighted rates indicates that the effect of the micro-assessments on participation was most pronounced for the unmatched group. However, none of the differences are statistically significant.

**Table 14. Percent of Wave 1 respondents participating in Wave 2 by micro-assessment condition**

Micro-assessment condition and percent of MAs completed	Wave 2 participation rate					
	Unweighted			Base weights		
	n	%	SE	N	%	SE
No micro-assessments	369	90.4	1.5	659,159	84.8	5.3
Monthly assessments	347	90.4	1.5	610,418	94.3	3.2
< 50%	10	31.3	8.2	3,018	8.5	9.9
50-89%	54	83.1	4.7	89,076	96.4	1.9
90+%	283	98.6	0.7	518,324	99.8	0.1
Biweekly assessments	364	91.9	1.4	553,298	87.0	5.8
< 50%	26	57.8	7.4	41,380	49.6	25.7
50-89%	80	87.9	3.4	86,398	68.5	19.3
90+%	258	99.2	0.5	425,519	99.9	0.1

## Substantive Outcomes

### Definition of Victimization Types

#### Intimate Partner Abuse

At the beginning of the survey, respondents were asked if they were currently or had been in an intimate relationship over the last 6 months. If they answered yes, they were asked about both physical and psychological intimate partner abuse, and about experiencing *and* perpetrating these behaviors. Physical abuse was measured by asking about seven different types of physical behavior that the respondent may have engaged in during the past 6 months, from grabbing and pushing to punching and throwing things. Psychological abuse was measured by asking about 11 types of emotionally abusive behaviors, such as insulting, controlling, or making threats to another person.

This category also includes reproductive coercion,<sup>4</sup> as well as stalking by a current or former intimate partner.

## Stalking

Stalking was defined by three criteria: (1) a person experienced (was a victim of) unwanted intrusive acts, (2) the same person (perpetrator) behaved this way more than once, and (3) the recipient of the behavior (victim) feared for their safety, or experienced significant emotional distress. Respondents were asked about seven types of unwanted intrusive acts, including unwanted communication, physically showing up unwanted, and unwanted observation/spying.

## Nonconsensual Sexual Contact (NCSC)

The survey asked about victimization and perpetration of five types of nonconsensual sexual contact (NCSC), including: (1) completed sexual penetration, (2) completed oral penetration, (3) attempted sexual penetration (4) attempted oral penetration, and (5) completed sexual touching. Respondents were asked whether they experienced or perpetrated these behaviors by three different tactics: (1) force or threats of force, (2) inability to consent due to drugs or alcohol, and (3) coercion by promising rewards or threatening non-physical harm.

## Prevalence Rates for Wave 1 and Wave 2

To analyze victimization rates, a final set of survey weights was created that adjusted the Wave 1 Survey distributions to equal the totals for the U.S. population. The latter used the July 2019 Current Population Survey for the population totals for 18-year-olds. The adjustment used a raking procedure to adjust the marginal distributions by sex, race, ethnicity and highest grade completed at the time of the Wave 1 Survey.

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<sup>4</sup> Reproductive coercion is when someone uses force or threats (physical or emotional) to control another person's reproductive choices; for example, a person may threaten their partner with physical harm if they take birth control pills to avoid getting pregnant.

## Victimization

Generally, over one in five respondents to the Wave 1 and Wave 2 Surveys indicated that they experienced some sort of intimate partner abuse (Table 15). The most prevalent type of intimate partner abuse was psychological, also over 20 percent. Physical abuse was less prevalent with about 5 to 10 percent of respondents experiencing this type of victimization. The rate of intimate partner abuse victimization did not change much between Wave 1 and Wave 2.

In Wave 1, about 15 to 20 percent of respondents said that they experienced some type of stalking in the past 6 months. In Wave 2, closer to 10 percent of respondents reported some type of stalking in the past 6 months. In Wave 1, 12-14 percent of respondents said that they experienced NCSC in the past six months; in Wave 2, NCSC decreased to 6-8 percent. Further exploration is needed to understand why these rates changed so dramatically between the two waves. It might be an effect of panel conditioning, which has been found to reduce reports of this type of victimization with each subsequent interview (Cantor, 1989). It may also be due to the effects of changes in living situations due to COVID-19 that occurred in March 2020 (respondents were interviewed starting in May) and resulted in colleges nationwide sending students home to live out the semester. If the difference is due to COVID-19 related changes, however, it is unclear why these circumstances would not have similarly affected the other victimization rates.

## Perpetration

As shown in Table 16, 15-20 percent of respondents in Waves 1 and 2 said that they perpetrated some type of intimate partner abuse. As was seen for victimization, rates of psychological abuse and perpetration were higher than physical abuse. As with NCSC, the rates for Wave 1 are significantly higher than for Wave 2.

For stalking and NCSC, perpetration rates were significantly lower than victimization rates. In both Waves 1 and 2, less than 1 percent of respondents said that they perpetrated stalking in the past 6 months, and 1-3 percent of respondents said that they perpetrated NCSC in the past 6 months.



Table 15. Prevalence of victimization in Wave 1 and Wave 2 Surveys, by incident type

Victimization type	Wave 1					Wave 2				
	Unweighted		Final weights <sup>^</sup>			Unweighted		Final weights <sup>^</sup>		
	n	%	N	%	SE	n	%	N	%	SE
Intimate Partner Abuse	280	45.69	1,034,144	52.3	7.3	217	31.8	973,079	38.8	6.7
Physical	84	13.8	372,010	20.1	6.0	51	6.2	254,807	6.9	3.2
Psychological*	265	43.5	984,119	49.8	7.1	212	31.1	970,206	38.7	6.7
Stalking	175	14.8	848,334	19.9	5.4	90	8.4	451,768	11.9	4.4
Partner	73	6.2	365,185	8.6	3.1	39	3.6	212,874	5.6	2.3
Non-partner	119	10.0	514,854	12.1	3.9	57	5.3	266,254	7.0	3.9
Nonconsensual Sexual Contact	170	14.3	521,280	12.2	2.6	83	7.7	218,349	5.8	1.8
Partner	78	6.6	333,556	7.8	2.3	42	3.9	127,296	3.4	1.6
Non-partner	110	9.3	266,691	6.3	1.8	48	4.5	127,439	3.4	1.2

\* Includes stalking by intimate partner

<sup>^</sup>Final weights created by adjusting base weights to equal population totals

Table 16. Prevalence of perpetration in Wave 1 and Wave 2 Surveys, by incident type

Perpetration type	Wave 1					Wave 2				
	Unweighted		Final weights <sup>^</sup>			Unweighted		Final weights <sup>^</sup>		
	n	%	N	%	SE	n	%	N	%	SE
Intimate Partner Abuse	202	33.3	910,851	48.8	6.9	144	31.8	580,157	17.8	4.6
Physical	75	12.6	324,340	17.6	5.7	47	6.6	252,163	7.0	3.2
Psychological*	171	28.3	810,033	43.2	6.4	128	18.9	431,602	14.2	4.2
Stalking	22	1.9	166,025	3.9	1.9	20	1.9	93,084	2.5	1.3
Partner	17	1.4	161,582	3.8	1.9	13	1.2	88,794	2.3	1.3
Non-partner	8	0.7	28,891	0.7	0.6	7	0.7	26,957	0.7	0.6
Nonconsensual Sexual Contact	33	2.8	77,974	1.8	0.9	13	1.2	99,844	2.6	1.6
Partner	24	2.0	73,228	1.7	0.9	8	0.7	97,472	2.6	1.6
Non-partner	17	1.4	31,719	0.7	0.6	6	0.6	26,005	0.7	0.6

\* Includes stalking by intimate partner

<sup>^</sup>Final weights created by adjusting base weights to equal population totals

## Wave 1 Prevalence Rates by Respondent Demographics

Victimization rates varied by respondent demographic characteristics. For example, Hispanic respondents reported the highest rates of intimate partner victimization but the lowest rates of NCSC. Respondents with higher family incomes (reported at recruitment) tend to have lower victimization rates of all types than those from lower income families. Respondents that were currently enrolled in school during the Wave 1 Survey were more likely to experience nonconsensual sexual contact compared to respondents who were not in school (Table 17).

These same general trends are seen in perpetration rates, although the overall rates are generally lower. Higher perpetration rates are reported by respondents that lived in lower income households and neighborhoods at the time of recruitment (Table 18).

Table 17. Prevalence of victimization in the Wave 1 and Wave 2 Surveys by selected respondent characteristics <sup>(2)</sup>

	IPV				Stalking				NCSC			
	Wave 1		Wave 2		Wave 1		Wave 2		Wave 1		Wave 2	
	%	SE	%	SE	%	SE	%	SE	%	SE	%	SE
<b>Race/Ethnicity<sup>(1)</sup></b>												
Hispanic	60.1	18.5	<b>19.4</b>	10.9	<b>21.9</b>	14.6	<b>7.2</b>	5.5	<b>3.7</b>	1.0	<b>3.1</b>	1.1
White	41.7	7.0	<b>23.6</b>	5.3	<b>11.7</b>	3.4	<b>7.1</b>	3.1	<b>11.9</b>	3.2	<b>5.0</b>	2.1
Black	72.7	15.4	<b>41.1</b>	15.6	<b>47.6</b>	15.0	<b>29.1</b>	15.4	<b>24.4</b>	11.8	<b>15.8</b>	11.2
Asian	69.1	40.7	<b>24.2</b>	21.9	<b>33.3</b>	32.9	<b>33.2</b>	33.6	<b>4.1</b>	3.0	<b>1.8</b>	1.5
Other/multiple	75.5	27.0	<b>36.9</b>	35.8	<b>8.6</b>	8.2	<b>1.5</b>	1.4	<b>37.1</b>	28.4	<b>1.0</b>	0.9
<b>Family household income<sup>(1)</sup></b>												
Under \$25,000	59.1	18.7	<b>53.5</b>	14.0	<b>21.1</b>	13.9	<b>19.7</b>	14.2	<b>13.9</b>	7.1	<b>1.3</b>	0.5
\$25,000 – \$49,999	69.7	12.9	<b>25.3</b>	8.9	<b>31.3</b>	11.3	<b>23.7</b>	11.6	<b>15.2</b>	6.5	<b>11.1</b>	6.3
\$50,000 – \$74,999	47.1	15.4	<b>19.9</b>	7.8	<b>11.9</b>	6.5	<b>7.0</b>	4.2	<b>10.1</b>	5.2	<b>3.6</b>	2.7
\$75,000 – \$99,999	38.9	15.3	<b>22.2</b>	11.7	<b>16.2</b>	8.8	<b>1.5</b>	0.5	<b>14.2</b>	7.1	<b>6.8</b>	4.2
\$100,000+	46.7	20.2	<b>14.2</b>	7.3	<b>21.1</b>	12.9	<b>4.9</b>	3.8	<b>9.4</b>	4.6	<b>4.4</b>	3.8
<b>Neighborhood type<sup>(1)</sup></b>												
Low income, high minority, higher urbanicity	66.8	11.5	<b>28.7</b>	8.6	<b>30.5</b>	11.8	<b>11.3</b>	5.9	<b>18.2</b>	6.8	<b>8.2</b>	5.2
High income, mixed-race, higher urbanicity	40.2	11.7	<b>34.7</b>	9.7	<b>14.4</b>	6.3	<b>15.4</b>	7.1	<b>9.3</b>	3.6	<b>7.8</b>	3.3
Middle income, low minority, lower urbanicity	47.6	12.9	<b>16.7</b>	7.7	<b>16.3</b>	8.4	<b>9.8</b>	8.6	<b>10.1</b>	4.2	<b>2.5</b>	1.6
<b>Currently attending school?</b>												
Yes	57.6	7.6	<b>18.8</b>	9.7	<b>22.8</b>	6.0	<b>7.2</b>	6.5	<b>13.3</b>	3.2	<b>1.4</b>	0.5
No	29.7	11.0	<b>27.1</b>	4.9	<b>7.5</b>	5.2	<b>12.9</b>	4.5	<b>7.5</b>	4.2	<b>6.7</b>	2.2
<b>Education completed</b>												
Less than HS	77.9	12.5	<b>38.4</b>	15.1	<b>29.8</b>	11.7	<b>16.4</b>	10.4	<b>13.0</b>	6.5	<b>8.9</b>	7.5
HS diploma/GED	49.2	6.6	<b>19.0</b>	5.7	<b>20.1</b>	7.4	<b>14.4</b>	8.6	<b>13.6</b>	3.5	<b>4.3</b>	1.9
Some college	16.2	10.7	<b>26.7</b>	8.1	<b>6.9</b>	2.7	<b>6.3</b>	3.6	<b>7.9</b>	3.5	<b>5.8</b>	2.7

<sup>(1)</sup> At time of recruitment<sup>(2)</sup> Uses final weights

Table 18. Prevalence of perpetration in the Wave 1 and Wave 2 Surveys

	IPV				Stalking				NCSC			
	Wave 1		Wave 2		Wave 1		Wave 2		Wave 1		Wave 2	
	%	SE	%	SE	%	SE	%	SE	%	SE	%	SE
<b>Race/Ethnicity<sup>(1)</sup></b>												
Hispanic	36.6	16.3	40.5	20.5	<b>0.5</b>	0.2	<b>0.9</b>	0.5	<b>0.4</b>	0.2	<b>0.2</b>	0.1
White	44.6	7.7	35.3	7.9	<b>0.9</b>	0.8	<b>1.5</b>	1.4	<b>2.0</b>	1.3	<b>0.9</b>	0.9
Black	76.8	14.2	37.3	19.7	<b>25.7</b>	14.5	<b>4.8</b>	4.6	<b>5.2</b>	4.5	<b>14.7</b>	11.2
Asian	66.3	46.7	60.8	49.9			<b>10.9</b>	12.9				
Other/multiple	68.4	34.8	89.0	13.0	<b>0.1</b>	0.1	<b>0.3</b>	0.4	<b>0.6</b>	0.3		
<b>Family household income<sup>(1)</sup></b>												
Under \$25,000	42.2	18.1	68.6	13.8	<b>11.6</b>	12.2	<b>4.9</b>	5.1	<b>0.8</b>	0.4	<b>0.4</b>	0.3
\$25,000 – \$49,999	67.6	13.3	43.3	17.7	<b>1.9</b>	1.8	<b>0.7</b>	0.3	<b>4.2</b>	3.0	<b>7.4</b>	5.9
\$50,000 – \$74,999	46.0	16.3	25.8	12.2	<b>4.7</b>	3.5	<b>2.7</b>	2.7	<b>2.3</b>	2.2	<b>2.6</b>	2.7
\$75,000 – \$99,999	49.8	16.4	30.4	16.4	<b>3.0</b>	2.3	<b>5.2</b>	5.8	<b>0.2</b>	0.1	<b>0.0</b>	0.1
\$100,000+	39.1	15.3	20.8	10.8	<b>0.4</b>	0.3	<b>0.2</b>	0.1	<b>0.2</b>	0.2	<b>0.1</b>	0.1
<b>Neighborhood type<sup>(1)</sup></b>												
Low income, high minority, higher urbanicity	58.8	10.7	42.4	11.9	<b>5.2</b>	3.2	<b>3.0</b>	2.6	<b>2.0</b>	1.5	<b>6.4</b>	5.2
High income, mixed-race, higher urbanicity	38.0	11.7	40.6	12.5	<b>7.6</b>	5.9	<b>2.2</b>	2.2	<b>4.0</b>	2.8	<b>2.2</b>	2.2
Middle income, low minority, lower urbanicity	49.2	12.4	33.5	12.8	<b>0.4</b>	0.2	<b>2.2</b>	2.4	<b>0.2</b>	0.1	<b>0.1</b>	0.1
<b>Currently attending school?</b>												
Yes	52.8	7.6	39.7	16.7	<b>4.8</b>	2.4	<b>0.3</b>	0.2	<b>1.5</b>	0.9	<b>0.3</b>	0.2
No	31.9	12.9	38.6	7.7	<b>0.0</b>	0.0	<b>2.9</b>	1.6	<b>3.1</b>	2.9	<b>3.1</b>	2.0
<b>Education completed</b>												
Less than HS	54.1	18.9	61.1	16.4	<b>8.8</b>	6.9	<b>0.4</b>	0.2	<b>4.5</b>	3.2	<b>7.2</b>	7.5
HS diploma/GED	54.2	6.2	36.3	10.5	<b>2.5</b>	1.6	<b>5.2</b>	3.0	<b>1.2</b>	0.8	<b>1.6</b>	1.5
Some college	9.7	7.2	29.4	11.3	<b>1.8</b>	1.7	<b>0.3</b>	0.2	<b>0.1</b>	0.1	<b>1.3</b>	1.3

(1) At time of recruitment

(2) Uses final weights

## Limitations

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As discussed in the introduction, the goal of this study was to create a design that allowed examination of the etiological factors associated with changes in the risk of victimization of young adults. Once a design was developed, this was tested in a pilot study assessing the viability of this design. The section below on Conclusions and Recommendations provides a summary of how well the proposed study design, as evidenced by the pilot study, met these broad objectives. In this section, we discuss the limitations of the pilot study when drawing these conclusions and recommendations.

One of the primary goals of the pilot study was to assess the quality of the sample design. Key to this was assessment of the ASL list to efficiently sample 18-year-olds. As noted in the Methods section of this report, it is very expensive to conduct a national probability survey of this population without some method of narrowing down the sample frame to units that are likely to contain this group of individuals. A second important goal of the pilot was to evaluate the response rates and data quality of those who were recruited into the study. The latter requires collecting data on a significant number of individuals. To meet these two goals, the sample design heavily oversampled the records that matched to the ASL list. This limited, to some extent, the precision of the national estimates that could be generated from the study. The oversampling generated a large design effect, which inflated the standard errors on the estimates of victimization. This limited the extent to which the study could detect statistically significant differences, especially among subgroups.

A second limitation was the restriction of the study to two waves of data collection. The proposed study design is to conduct a 6-year study, surveying respondents from age 18 to 24. The pilot study provided data on recruiting participants and administering the first two waves of data collection. While this was sufficient to provide information on various aspects of the full longitudinal study (e.g., what methods work best to recruit and retain respondents, will respondents complete micro-assessments), it is limited by an inability to assess the robustness of the design with additional waves of data collection.

A final limitation is that the COVID-19 pandemic occurred between Waves 1 and 2 of the study. The Wave 1 and 2 surveys started in November of 2019 and May of 2020, respectively. The COVID-19 pandemic led to schools closing in late February and early March. At that time, students

were relocating away from their campuses and restrictions on population movements were being instituted. This limits, to some degree, the conclusions about change in victimization and perpetration rates between waves.

## Expected Applicability of the Research

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The findings from the pilot study are intended to ensure the success of a larger longitudinal study, by identifying what works, especially around sampling, recruitment, and retention of study participants and measurement of IV. However, our findings can be applied more broadly to research that seeks to recruit and engage 18-year-olds in general and around sensitive topics, more specifically. For example, our sampling design (including the ASL list) was quite successful in helping us find the target population, while our recruitment strategies were effective in bringing them to the study. The results suggest that it is possible to conduct a study of 18-year-olds using these methods.

We did not find strong effects of incentives. It does seem that a \$30 incentive does marginally increase the success of the recruitment. Similarly, there was a small effect of the \$60 incentive relative to \$40 for completing the two waves of the survey. The early-bird incentive experiment did not seem to affect the participation rates.

We did not find an effect of gamification. Further research could vary the gamification components we used to see if doing so makes a difference or focus on understanding why this technique was not salient to this population.

The micro-assessments were successful, at least from a response rate perspective. They did not seem to affect participation at the Wave 2 Survey. It may have even helped. If the data from these micro-assessments prove useful analytically, they should be considered as part of a larger longitudinal study.

## Discussion and Recommendations

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The purpose of this project was to design and test a study design that assesses the risks for, experiences with, and consequences of interpersonal violence (IV) of young adults. Of particular interest is how risk might differ between those young adults who go to college compared to those that do not go to college. The latter recognizes that studies of IV among young adults have largely focused on college students and very little is known about how risks differ from those that do not go to college.

A design considered the need to collect data for young adults during a time period when their risk of IV is changing. The proposed study design called for drawing a probability sample of 18-year-olds as their cohort is finishing high school. Once recruited, this group would be followed for 6 years. Given the relatively rare nature of the more serious forms of IV, the study would have to have a large sample to conduct the types of analyses that are of interest (e.g., >10,000). Given this obstacle, and the lack of resources available to implement the larger study, the design called for sampling youth by sending out requests via postal mail and asking the subject to complete the recruitment survey on the web. In order to keep the costs down, the sample design called for supplementing a general population frame with a list of high school seniors that was available from a commercial vendor (ASL). This list was used to form sampling strata based on whether an address matched from the vendor matched to the general population sample frame. Those that matched were oversampled to increase the chances that an eligible person would be contacted.

Once recruited into the study, the design called for surveying subjects every 6 months. Shorter surveys (or “micro-assessments”) would be administered between the waves. These shorter surveys would be used to measure change over relatively short periods of time as well as keeping the subject engaged in the study.

A pilot study was implemented to assess the feasibility of the design. This pilot sought to address six issues: (1) evaluation of the sample frame, (2) assessment of recruitment of respondents, (3) ability to maintain contact with recruits, (4) response rate for administering the baseline survey, (5) the performance of the micro-assessments, and (6) response rate for the Wave 2 Surveys.

The pilot was successful across all five of these areas. The overall recruitment was very successful. The ASL list provided a high yield on the surveys that were mailed out. The unmatched strata, representing much of the country, had a very low return rate. Given the anticipated low eligibility of the households included in this strata, the return was about what was expected. It was not possible to compute a response rate, at least as defined by survey researchers, because we did not know how many of the households in the sample contained an eligible subject. However, it was possible to estimate the proportion of 18-year-olds who were represented among the respondents. This was computed using the selection probabilities for the respondents and estimating the population total for this group. Dividing this by the total number of 18-year-olds in the country, taken from the Current Population Survey, results in 46 percent. Interpreted as an approximation to a response rate, this is very respectable.

The sample that was recruited was found to be close to the national population of 18-year-olds on a number of demographic characteristics. The main shortcoming was the sample underrepresented those who did not have a high school degree. This issue may partly be because the ASL list, which was used to heavily oversample households, is composed of high school seniors. Those behind in grade, dropouts, or those that are in college are generally not covered by this list. The population from the sample strata that did not match to the ASL list covers these individuals. However, this strata was heavily under-sampled for the pilot (for cost reasons). The larger study will need to significantly increase the size of the unmatched stratum to include a larger number of these individuals.

The incentive experiments found inconsistent effects. For recruitment, there was a small increase in the rates of recruitment for the \$30 incentive as compared to the \$20 incentive. The largest effect seemed to be for the unmatched stratum. Carrying forward some type of differential incentive, perhaps using a higher incentive for the unmatched stratum may be the best strategy for the larger study. The incentives to motivate respondents to complete the recruitment survey early (the early bird option) did not result in an increase in response rate. The larger incentive of \$60 (versus \$40) had a modest effect on response at Waves 1 and 2. The higher incentive led to an increase of 3 to 7 percentage point differences in the overall participation rates at each of the waves. These were marginally statistically significant.

There was significant attrition between the recruitment and the Wave 1 interview. Approximately 67 percent of those that responded to the recruitment went on to complete the first wave of the study. The attrition was higher for several important subgroups, including those not attending school and not living with their parents. The larger study should consider special efforts to keep these groups in the sample.

Once completing the Wave 1 Survey, subjects were likely to stay in the study for the duration. Approximately 88 percent of the Wave 1 respondents completed Wave 2 of the survey. Participation in the micro-assessments was also relatively high. Approximately 75 percent of those asked to do the monthly micro-assessments completed all six. Of those asked to do bi-weekly (or 12) micro-assessments, 50 percent did all 12 and 75 percent did at least 10 of them.

Finally, the gamification experiment did not result in differences in the participation rates. For example, the group that did not participate in the experiment at all had participation rates that were equal or even nominally higher than the rates for the two experimental groups. For the larger study, we would recommend not including the gamification aspect of participation.

In summary, the pilot generally provided positive results with respect to the feasibility of the proposed design. The pilot recruited the target population with good success. It represented the population of interest very well, with some exceptions. Implementing the study on a larger scale should increase the sampling rate from the unmatched strata and consider actions that will increase the participation of individuals who have not finished high school or may already be in college.

# **Appendix A**

## **Advisory Board Members**

# Appendix A

## Advisory Board Members

Name	Affiliation
Ann Coker, Ph.D.	University of Kentucky
Deborah Capaldi, Ph.D.	University of Oregon
Gregory Wolniak, Ph.D.	New York University
Jean-Philippe Laurenceau, Ph.D.	University of Delaware
Karen Heimer, Ph.D.	University of Iowa
Kevin Swartout, Ph.D.	Georgia State University
Kimberly Menard, Ph.D.	Pennsylvania State University
Lynn Addington, Ph.D.	American University
Maria Testa, Ph.D.	University of Buffalo
Pamela Wilcox, Ph.D.	University of Cincinnati
Sandra Martin, Ph.D.	The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Suzanne Swan, Ph.D.	University of South Carolina
Tara Warner, Ph.D.	University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Dennis Reidy, Ph.D.	Georgia State University
Lisa Trivits, Ph.D.	Health and Human Services
Joan Tabachnick, MBA	US Department of Justice
Ginger Baran	US Department of Justice
Katie Hanna	US Department of Justice
Barbara Ann Oudekerk, Ph.D.	US Department of Justice
Aleta Meyer, Ph.D.	Health and Human Services
Bob Freeman, Ph.D.	National Institute of Health
Dara Blachman-Demner, Ph.D.	National Institute of Health
Anne Hamilton	US Department of Justice
Carrie Mulford	National Institute of Drug Abuse

# **Appendix B1**

## **Matched Strata Mailing Materials**

# Appendix B1

## Matched Strata Mailing Materials

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### Mailing materials for Stratum 1 and 2

#### Contents

Initial recruitment letter	2
Insert for initial recruitment Letter	4
Reminder postcard	5
Follow-up request	7
Final follow-up request to parent	9
Final follow-up request included in sealed envelope for stratum 1 (includes hardcopy survey)	11
Insert for follow-up letter	13
Final follow-up request included in sealed envelope for stratum 2 (does not include hardcopy)	14
Insert for follow-up letter	16

[Date]

## BE A VOICE FOR YOUNG ADULTS.

[Full name]  
[Address Line 1]  
[Address Line 2]  
[City], [State] [ZIP code]

Dear [First Name],

You've been scientifically selected to represent young adults like yourself in the **National Study of Young Adults!** The goal of the study is to learn about experiences young people have while transitioning into adulthood.

This study is sponsored by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), part of the U.S. Department of Justice. It is being conducted by Westat, a social science research firm and New York University (NYU).

### How do I participate? What will I receive for participating?

Your participation is voluntary. It involves completing an initial 10-minute survey. You will then be asked to participate in other surveys starting in the fall of this year. To thank you for your participation:

- After you complete the initial 10-minute survey, we will give you a [\$20/\$30] Amazon gift card code.
- [If you complete the initial survey before [date], we will give you an extra \$10 on your gift card.]
- If you participate in future surveys, you will receive additional gift cards!

To participate please visit the secure website below and enter your personal PIN.

SURVEY WEBSITE: <https://www.exampleurl.com/>  
YOUR PIN: 51423

### How did you get my address?

Your address was randomly selected from among all known addresses in the country. Because we cannot invite all young adults to participate, you will represent others who have not been selected.

### What if I have more questions about the study?

On the back of this letter, there are answers to common questions. You can also visit our website at [<https://www.exampleurl.com/>], or call our study team at [1-800-EXAMPLE].

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
[PD Full Name]  
Project Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
[NYU PD Name]  
Co-Principal Investigator

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. What is the purpose of this study?**

The NSYA seeks to understand the risks and consequences of violence as young people transition to adulthood. Your participation will help us improve the way we monitor and treat issues related to safety for young people like yourself.

**Q. Am I required to participate?**

No – participation is voluntary. There are no penalties for not participating. However, this study collects information which may help policymakers and ultimately may benefit young adults. That’s very important, so we hope you will participate.

**Q. Will I ever be identified? Will my answers be kept confidential?**

All information obtained during this study will be treated as confidential. Your answers will be combined with responses from other study participants when writing up reports and conducting analyses. The data are collected under federal statute (42 U.S.C. § 3789g and 28 CFR Part 22) meaning we cannot release your answers if we get any request from a government agency, private organization or individual.

**Q. What would we like you to do?**

Participation completing a 10 minute survey. You will receive a \$[20/30] Amazon gift card as a thank-you for participating.

The NSYA will continue for another year. After completing this survey, we will ask you to participate in future surveys and other activities. You will receive additional gift cards for participating in future activities.



**Get up to \$30 more!**

Just complete a short survey  
to tell us about yourself.

▶ See the enclosed letter for details.



1600 Research Blvd.  
Rockville, MD 20850-3129

Postage  
indicia

[First Name] [Last Name]  
1234 Main Street  
Rockville, MD 20850

Important information enclosed  
**NATIONAL STUDY OF  
YOUNG ADULTS**





# NATIONAL STUDY OF YOUNG ADULTS

Dear [First Name],

We recently sent you a letter with \$2 as a thank you inviting you to take part in the *National Study of Young Adults*.

If you have already completed the survey, we appreciate your time. If you have not done so yet, please log on to take the survey. Your views and experiences are important.

Participation involves completing a 10-minute survey and we will give you a [\$20/\$30] Amazon gift card as a thank

To take the survey, go to: [www.nationalstudyofyoungadults.com](http://www.nationalstudyofyoungadults.com)  
To begin, enter this access code: **[PIN]**

If you have any questions please call [1-855-638-5909] or email [\[example@westat.com\]](mailto:example@westat.com).

Thank you,

*Signature*

[Westat name]  
[Westat title]

*Signature*

[NYU name]  
[NYU title]



[Date]

## BE A VOICE FOR YOUNG ADULTS.

[Full name]  
[Address Line 1]  
[Address Line 2]  
[City], [State] [ZIP code]

Dear [First Name],

A few weeks ago, we sent you an invitation to participate in the *National Study of Young Adults*. We have not yet received your response and are writing again because we want you to be a voice for young adults!

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ), part of the U.S. Department of Justice, has given a grant to Westat and New York University (NYU) to conduct this study. You've been scientifically selected to represent young adults like yourself in this important national study.

- Your participation involves completing an initial 10-minute survey. You will then be asked to participate in other surveys starting in the fall of this year. To thank you for your participation: After you complete the initial 10-minute survey, we will give you a [\$20/\$30] Amazon gift card code.
- [If you complete the initial survey before [date], we will give you an extra \$10 on your gift card.]
- If you participate in future surveys, you will receive additional gift cards!

Interested? **It only takes a few minutes to sign up!** Please visit the secure website below and enter your personal PIN.

**SURVEY WEBSITE:** <https://www.exampleurl.com/>  
**YOUR PIN:** 51423

On the back of this letter, there are answers to common questions. If you have additional questions, please visit our website at [<https://www.exampleurl.com/>], or call our study team at [1-800-EXAMPLE].

We hope you'll take this opportunity to represent other young adults and help researchers and policy makers understand the experiences of people like you.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
[PD Full Name]  
**Project Director**

\_\_\_\_\_  
[NYU PD Name]  
**Co-Principal Investigator**

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. What is the purpose of this study?**

The NSYA seeks to understand the risks and consequences of violence as young people transition to adulthood. Your participation will help us improve the way we monitor and treat issues related to safety for young people like yourself.

**Q. Am I required to participate?**

No – participation is voluntary. There are no penalties for not participating. However, this study collects information which may help policymakers and ultimately may benefit young adults. That’s very important, so we hope you will participate.

**Q. Will I ever be identified? Will my answers be kept confidential?**

All information obtained during this study will be treated as confidential. Your answers will be combined with responses from other study participants when writing up reports and conducting analyses. The data are collected under federal statute (42 U.S.C. § 3789g and 28 CFR Part 22) meaning we cannot release your answers if we get any request from a government agency, private organization or individual.

**Q. What would we like you to do?**

Participation involves completing a 10 minute survey. You will receive a \$[20/30] Amazon gift card as a thank-you for participating.

The NSYA will continue for another year. After completing this survey, we will ask you to participate in future surveys and other activities. You will receive additional gift cards for participating in future activities.

## BE A VOICE FOR YOUNG ADULTS.

[Date]

[Address Line 1]

[Address Line 2]

[City], [State] [ZIP code]

To the Parent or Guardian of [Full Youth Name],

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ), part of the U.S. Department of Justice, has given a grant to Westat and New York University (NYU) to conduct the *National Study of Young Adults*. [YOUTH NAME] has been scientifically selected by researchers to represent young adults in this important national study. The goal of this study is to help policy makers and researchers learn about experiences young people across the country have while transitioning into adulthood. A few weeks ago, we sent [YOUTH NAME] a letter about this study, but we have not received a response.

Participation involves completing an initial 10-minute survey. [YOUTH NAME] will then be asked to participate in other surveys starting in the fall of this year. To thank them for their participation:

- After [YOUTH NAME] completes the initial 10-minute survey, we will give them a [\$20/\$30] Amazon gift card code.
- If they complete the initial survey before [date], we will give them an extra \$10 on their gift card.]
- If they choose to participate in future surveys, they will receive additional gift cards.

**It only takes a few minutes to sign up.** Please give [YOUTH NAME] the enclosed invitation to learn how to get involved.

On the back of this letter, there are answers to common questions. You can also visit our website at [<https://www.exampleurl.com/>], or call our study team at [1-800-EXAMPLE].

We hope you'll give this letter to [YOUTH NAME] to make sure they have an opportunity to help researchers and policy makers understand the experiences of people like them.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
[PD Full Name]

**Project Director**

\_\_\_\_\_  
[NYU PD Name]

**Co-Principal Investigator**

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. What is the purpose of this study?**

The NSYA seeks to understand the risks and consequences of violence as young people transition to adulthood. Your young adult's participation will help us improve the way we monitor and treat issues related to safety for young people.

**Q. Is participation required?**

No – participation is voluntary. There are no penalties for not participating. However, this study collects information which may help policymakers and ultimately may benefit young adults. That's very important, so we hope your young adult will participate.

**Q. Will answers be kept confidential?**

All information obtained during this study will be treated as confidential. Answers will be combined with responses from other study participants when writing up reports and conducting analyses. The data are collected under federal statute (42 U.S.C. § 3789g and 28 CFR Part 22) that protects it from any request by any government agency, private organization or individual.

**Q. What would you like my young adult to do?**

Participation involves agreeing to complete a 10-minute survey. They will receive a \$[20/30] Amazon gift card as a thank-you for participating.

The NSYA will continue for another year. After completing this survey, we will ask them to participate in future surveys and other activities. They will receive additional gift cards for participating in future activities.

[Date]

## BE A VOICE FOR YOUNG ADULTS.

[Full name]  
[Address Line 1]  
[Address Line 2]  
[City], [State] [ZIP code]

Dear [First Name],

A few weeks ago, we sent you an invitation to participate in the *National Study of Young Adults*. We have not yet received your response and are writing again because we want you to be a voice for young adults!

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ), part of the U.S. Department of Justice, has given a grant to Westat and New York University (NYU) to conduct this study. You've been scientifically selected to represent young adults like yourself in this important national study.

- Your participation involves completing an initial 10-minute survey. You will then be asked to participate in other surveys starting in the fall of this year. To thank you for your participation: After you complete the initial 10-minute survey, we will give you a **[\$20/\$30] Amazon gift card code**.
- [If you complete the initial survey before [date], we will give you an **extra \$10** on your gift card.]
- If you participate in future surveys, you will receive **additional gift cards!**

Interested? **It only takes a few minutes to sign up!** Please visit the secure website below and enter your personal PIN.

**SURVEY WEBSITE:** <https://www.exampleurl.com/>  
**YOUR PIN:** 51423

If you prefer, you can also fill out the enclosed paper questionnaire, and return it using the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

On the back of this letter, there are answers to common questions. If you have additional questions, please visit our website at [<https://www.exampleurl.com/>], or call our study team at [1-800-EXAMPLE].

We hope you'll take this opportunity to represent other young adults and help researchers and policy makers understand the experiences of people like you.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
[PD Full Name]  
**Project Director**

\_\_\_\_\_  
[NYU PD Name]  
**Co-Principal Investigator**

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. What is the purpose of this study?**

The NSYA seeks to understand the risks and consequences of violence as young people transition to adulthood. Your participation will help us improve the way we monitor and treat issues related to safety for young people like yourself.

**Q. Am I required to participate?**

No – participation is voluntary. There are no penalties for not participating. However, this study collects information which may help policymakers and ultimately may benefit young adults. That’s very important, so we hope you will participate.

**Q. Will I ever be identified? Will my answers be kept confidential?**

All information obtained during this study will be treated as confidential. Your answers will be combined with responses from other study participants when writing up reports and conducting analyses. The data are collected under federal statute (42 U.S.C. § 3789g and 28 CFR Part 22) meaning we cannot release your answers if we get any request from a government agency, private organization or individual.

**Q. What would we like you to do?**

Participation involves completing a 10 minute survey. You will receive a \$[20/30] Amazon gift card as a thank-you for participating.

The NSYA will continue for another year. After completing this survey, we will ask you to participate in future surveys and other activities. You will receive additional gift cards for participating in future activities.



**Get up to \$30 more!**

Just complete a short survey  
to tell us about yourself.

▶ See the enclosed letter for details.

[Date]

## BE A VOICE FOR YOUNG ADULTS.

[Full name]  
[Address Line 1]  
[Address Line 2]  
[City], [State] [ZIP code]

Dear [First Name],

A few weeks ago, we sent you an invitation to participate in the *National Study of Young Adults*. We have not yet received your response and are writing again because we want you to be a voice for young adults!

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ), part of the U.S. Department of Justice, has given a grant to Westat and New York University (NYU) to conduct this study. You've been scientifically selected to represent young adults like yourself in this important national study.

- Your participation involves completing an initial 10-minute survey. You will then be asked to participate in other surveys starting in the fall of this year. To thank you for your participation: After you complete the initial 10-minute survey, we will give you a [\$20/\$30] Amazon gift card code.
- [If you complete the initial survey before [date], we will give you an extra \$10 on your gift card.]
- If you participate in future surveys, you will receive additional gift cards!

Interested? **It only takes a few minutes to sign up!** Please visit the secure website below and enter your personal PIN.

**SURVEY WEBSITE:** <https://www.exampleurl.com/>  
**YOUR PIN:** 51423

On the back of this letter, there are answers to common questions. If you have additional questions, please visit our website at [<https://www.exampleurl.com/>], or call our study team at [1-800-EXAMPLE].

We hope you'll take this opportunity to represent other young adults and help researchers and policy makers understand the experiences of people like you.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
[PD Full Name]  
**Project Director**

\_\_\_\_\_  
[NYU PD Name]  
**Co-Principal Investigator**

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. What is the purpose of this study?**

The NSYA seeks to understand the risks and consequences of violence as young people transition to adulthood. Your participation will help us improve the way we monitor and treat issues related to safety for young people like yourself.

**Q. Am I required to participate?**

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**Q. Will I ever be identified? Will my answers be kept confidential?**

All information obtained during this study will be treated as confidential. Your answers will be combined with responses from other study participants when writing up reports and conducting analyses. The data are collected under federal statute (42 U.S.C. § 3789g and 28 CFR Part 22) meaning we cannot release your answers if we get any request from a government agency, private organization or individual.

**Q. What would we like you to do?**

Participation involves completing a 10 minute survey. You will receive a \$[20/30] Amazon gift card as a thank-you for participating.

The NSYA will continue for another year. After completing this survey, we will ask you to participate in future surveys and other activities. You will receive additional gift cards for participating in future activities.



## Get up to **\$30** more!

Just complete a short survey  
to tell us about yourself.

▶ See the enclosed letter for details.

## **Appendix B2**

# **Unmatched Strata Mailing Materials**

# Appendix B2

## Unmatched Strata Mailing Materials

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### Mailing materials for Stratum 3

#### Contents

Initial recruitment letter	2
Insert for initial recruitment Letter	4
Reminder postcard	5
Follow-up request	7
Final follow-up request with hardcopy screening survey	9
Screening Survey	11

[Date]

## BE A VOICE FOR YOUNG ADULTS.

[Full name]  
[Address Line 1]  
[Address Line 2]  
[City], [State] [ZIP code]

Dear Resident,

Your household has been scientifically selected by researchers as eligible for the *National Study of Young Adults!* The goal is to learn about experiences young people across the country have while transitioning into adulthood.

This study is sponsored by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), part of the U.S. Department of Justice. It is being conducted by Westat, a social science research firm and New York University.

If there is someone in your household who:

- Is currently at least 18 years old and was a senior in high school in Spring 2019,

please have them visit the secure website below and enter the personal PIN.

**SURVEY WEBSITE:** <https://www.exampleurl.com/>  
**YOUR PIN:** 51423

If there is more than one person who is eligible in your household, have one fill out the survey. Have the others call XXX-XXX-XXXX to receive additional PINs to complete the survey.

### How does the young adult participate? What will they receive for participating?

Participation is voluntary. It involves completing an initial 10-minute survey for which they will receive a (\$20/\$30) Amazon gift card code. If they participate in future surveys, they will receive additional gift cards!

### What if I don't have any young adults in my household?

Please go to the website above and let us know. You will receive a \$5 Amazon gift code for providing us with this information.

### What if I have more questions about the study?

On the back of this letter, there are answers to common questions. You can also visit our website at [<https://www.exampleurl.com/>], or call our study team at [1-800-EXAMPLE].

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
[PD Full Name]  
Project Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
[NYU PD Name]  
Co-Principal Investigator

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What if there is more than one person who is eligible?**

Have one of the persons who is eligible fill out the survey. Ask the other eligible young adults to call the toll free number XXX-XXX-XXXX and we will provide additional PINs to take the survey.

**Q: Why was I selected?**

Your address was randomly selected from all addresses in the country. Because we cannot invite all households to participate, you represent other households that were not selected.

**Q: What is the purpose of this study?**

The goal of this study is to learn about the experiences of young people as they transition into adulthood.

**Q: Who is behind this study?**

This study is sponsored by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), part of the U.S. Department of Justice. It is being conducted by Westat, a social science research organization and New York University.

**Q: Am I required to participate?**

No – participation is voluntary. However, this study collects information, which may help policymakers and ultimately may benefit young adults. That's very important, so we hope you will want to participate.

**Q: Will I ever be identified? Will my answers be kept confidential?**

All information obtained during this study will be treated as confidential. Your answers will be combined with responses from other study participants when writing up reports and conducting analyses. The data are collected under federal statute (42 U.S.C. § 3789g and 28 CFR Part 22) meaning we cannot release your answers if we get any request from a government agency, private organization or individual.

**Q: What would we like the young adult to do?**

Participation involves agreeing to complete a 10-minute survey. Before they fill out the survey, the young adult will be told what is on the survey and that they can decline to participate. The young adult will receive a \$[20/30] Amazon gift card as a thank-you for completing the survey.

The NSYA will continue for another year. After completing this survey, we will ask the young person to participate in future surveys and other activities. The young person will receive additional gift cards for participating in future activities.



**Get up to \$30 more!**

Just complete a short survey  
to tell us about yourself.

▶ See the enclosed letter for details.



1600 Research Blvd.  
Rockville, MD 20850-3129

Postage  
indicia

Resident  
1234 Main Street  
Rockville, MD





# NATIONAL STUDY OF YOUNG ADULTS

Dear Resident,

We recently sent your household letter with \$2 as a thank you asking if there is currently a young adult in your household who is:

- at least 18 years old and was a senior in high school in Spring 2019.

If so, they are invited to participate in the *National Study of Young Adults*! Please ask them to use the information below to log on to take the survey

Participation involves completing a 10-minute survey and we will give your young adult a [\$20/30] Amazon gift card as a thank you.

To take the survey, go to: [www.nationalstudyofyoungadults.com](http://www.nationalstudyofyoungadults.com)  
To begin, enter this access code: **[PIN]**

If you have any questions please call [1-855-638-5909] or email [[example@westat.com](mailto:example@westat.com)].

Thank you,

*Signature*

[Westat name]  
[Westat title]

*Signature*

[NYU name]  
[NYU title]



## BE A VOICE FOR YOUNG ADULTS.

[Date]

[Address Line 1]

[Address Line 2]

[City], [State] [ZIP code]

Dear Resident,

A few weeks ago, we sent your household an invitation to participate in the **National Study of Young Adults**. We have not yet received a response and are writing again because we are interested if there is someone in your household who:

- Is currently at least 18 years old and was a senior in high school in Spring 2019\*

If so, please have them visit the secure website below and enter the personal PIN.

Participation by the young adult involves completing an initial 10-minute survey. They will then be asked to participate in other surveys starting in the fall of this year. To thank them for their participation we will give them:

- A **[\$20/\$30] Amazon gift card code** after completion of the initial 10-minute survey
- **Additional gift cards** if they participate in future surveys!

**SURVEY WEBSITE:** <https://www.exampleurl.com/>  
**YOUR PIN:** 51423

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ), part of the U.S. Department of Justice is sponsoring this study. The study is being conducted by Westat, a social science research firm and New York University (NYU)

If you do not have any young adults in your household, please log in to the website above and let us know. You will receive a **\$5 Amazon gift code** for providing us with this information.

On the back of this letter, there are answers to common questions. If you have additional questions, please visit our website at [<https://www.exampleurl.com/>], or call our study team at [1-800-EXAMPLE].

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
[PD Full Name]

**Project Director**

\_\_\_\_\_  
[NYU PD Name]

**Co-Principal Investigator**

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What if there is more than one person who is eligible?**

Have one of the persons who is eligible fill out the survey. Ask the other eligible young adults to call the toll free number XXX-XXX-XXXX and we will provide additional PINs to take the survey.

**Q: Why was I selected?**

Your address was randomly selected from all addresses in the country. Because we cannot invite all households to participate, you represent other households that were not selected.

**Q: What is the purpose of this study?**

The goal of this study is to learn about the experiences of young people as they transition into adulthood.

**Q: Who is behind this study?**

This study is sponsored by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), part of the U.S. Department of Justice. It is being conducted by Westat, a social science research organization and New York University.

**Q: Am I required to participate?**

No – participation is voluntary. However, this study collects information, which may help policymakers and ultimately may benefit young adults. That's very important, so we hope you will want to participate.

**Q: Will I ever be identified? Will my answers be kept confidential?**

All information obtained during this study will be treated as confidential. Your answers will be combined with responses from other study participants when writing up reports and conducting analyses. The data are collected under federal statute (42 U.S.C. § 3789g and 28 CFR Part 22) meaning we cannot release your answers if we get any request from a government agency, private organization or individual.

**Q: What would we like the young adult to do?**

Participation involves agreeing to complete a 10-minute survey. Before they fill out the survey, the young adult will be told what is on the survey and that they can decline to participate. The young adult will receive a \$[20/30] Amazon gift card as a thank-you for completing the survey.

The NSYA will continue for another year. After completing this survey, we will ask the young person to participate in future surveys and other activities. The young person will receive additional gift cards for participating in future activities.

## BE A VOICE FOR YOUNG ADULTS.

[Date]

[Address Line 1]  
[Address Line 2]  
[City], [State] [ZIP code]

Dear Resident,

A few weeks ago, we sent your household an invitation to participate in the *National Study of Young Adults*. We have not yet received a response and are writing again because we are interested if there is someone in your household who:

- Is currently at least 18 years old and was a senior in high school in Spring 2019.

If so, we invite them to participate! Please have them visit the secure website below and enter the personal PIN.

**SURVEY WEBSITE:** <https://www.exampleurl.com/>  
**YOUR PIN:** 51423

Participation involves completing an initial 10-minute survey. They will then be asked to participate in other surveys starting in the fall of this year. To thank them for their participation:

- After they complete the initial 10-minute survey, we will give them a [\$20/\$30] Amazon gift card code.
- If they choose to participate in future surveys, they will receive additional gift cards.

### What if I don't have any young adults in my household?

Please log in to the secure website above and let us know. You will receive a \$5 Amazon gift code for providing us with this information. If you prefer, you can fill out the enclosed paper form and send it back to us using the prepaid envelope and we will send you \$5.

### What if I have more questions about the study?

On the back of this letter, there are answers to common questions. You can also visit our website at [<https://www.exampleurl.com/>], or call our study team at [1-800-EXAMPLE].

Sincerely,

---

[PD Full Name]  
Project Director

---

[NYU PD Name]  
Co-Principal Investigator

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What if there is more than one person who is eligible?**

Have one of the persons who is eligible fill out the survey. Ask the other eligible young adults to call the toll free number XXX-XXX-XXXX and we will provide additional PINs to take the survey.

**Q: Why was I selected?**

Your address was randomly selected from all addresses in the country. Because we cannot invite all households to participate, you represent other households that were not selected.

**Q: What is the purpose of this study?**

The goal of this study is to learn about the experiences of young people as they transition into adulthood.

**Q: Who is behind this study?**

This study is sponsored by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), part of the U.S. Department of Justice. It is being conducted by Westat, a social science research organization and New York University.

**Q: Am I required to participate?**

No – participation is voluntary. However, this study collects information, which may help policymakers and ultimately may benefit young adults. That's very important, so we hope you will want to participate.

**Q: Will I ever be identified? Will my answers be kept confidential?**

All information obtained during this study will be treated as confidential. Your answers will be combined with responses from other study participants when writing up reports and conducting analyses. The data are collected under federal statute (42 U.S.C. § 3789g and 28 CFR Part 22) meaning we cannot release your answers if we get any request from a government agency, private organization or individual.

**Q: What would we like the young adult to do?**

Participation involves agreeing to complete a 10-minute survey. Before they fill out the survey, the young adult will be told what is on the survey and that they can decline to participate. The young adult will receive a \$[20/30] Amazon gift card as a thank-you for completing the survey.

The NSYA will continue for another year. After completing this survey, we will ask the young person to participate in future surveys and other activities. The young person will receive additional gift cards for participating in future activities.



Please fill out and return the survey below to see if someone in your household is eligible for the National Study of Young Adults! You will receive \$5 if you return the survey.

**Q1. Is there anyone living in your household that is 18 years old, and was a senior in high school in spring of 2019?**

<input type="radio"/> Yes, I am 18 years old and was a senior in high school in spring of 2019.....	→ GO TO Q2
<input type="radio"/> Yes, someone else in my household is 18 years old and was a senior in high school in spring of 2019.....	→ SKIP TO Q3
<input type="radio"/> No, no one in my household is 18 years old and was a senior in high school in spring of 2019.....	→ SKIP TO Q4

**Q2. You may be eligible to participate in the National Study of Young Adults!**

Please visit [nationalstudyofyoungadults.com](http://nationalstudyofyoungadults.com) and enter the PIN from your invitation letter to get started.

**Q3. Please tell the person in your household who is 18 years old and was a high school senior in Spring of 2019 to visit [nationalstudyofyoungadults.com](http://nationalstudyofyoungadults.com) and enter the PIN from your invitation letter to complete the survey.**

If there is more than one 18 year old in your household who was a senior in the spring of 2019, please have one of them visit the website to fill out the survey. Ask the other(s) to call the toll free number XXX-XXX-XXXX and we will provide additional PINs to take the survey.

In case that we don't hear from the young adult, we would like to follow-up with them. Please provide their contact information below and return it to us.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Q4. No one in your household eligible to participate in the National Study of Young Adults.**

Please return your completed form to us to let us know, and we will send you \$5 as a thank-you for your time.

# **Appendix C**

## **Website Flowchart**

# Appendix C Website Flowchart

