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# ***Do you want to participate in the research project***

## ***Exposure to violence, safety and health in the Norwegian population?***

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We invite you to participate in a large national study on safety, exposure to violence, health and quality of life among men and women in Norway. You are among a large number of people aged 18-74 who have been randomly selected. This survey will provide valuable knowledge about the extent of such incidents, and how this affects health and quality of life. Participation in the survey is entirely voluntary!

**Your answer is therefore very important, regardless of whether you are in good or poor health, or whether you have had experiences of violence or not.** The more people who answer, the greater the confidence we can have in the results.

You will soon receive a text message (SMS) from Ipsos with a link to an online questionnaire. Answering the online questionnaire will normally take 10-15 minutes. You can choose when you want to answer the online questionnaire. The Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies (NKVTS) is responsible for the project.

Your answers are confidential, and the researchers have an obligation of confidentiality.

The questions can be asked in Norwegian or English. More information about the survey can be found in this letter. For more detailed information about the project, see [www.nkvts.no/trygg](http://www.nkvts.no/trygg).

We hope you will take part in the survey!

Sincerely

*Inger Elise Birkeland*

Director NKVTS

### **ABOUT THE RESEARCH PROJECT AND WHY YOU HAVE BEEN ASKED**

The Ministry of Justice and Public Security is the main funder of the survey, and the study is part of the Government's action plan against domestic violence. A large number of persons between the ages of 18-74 have been randomly selected from the National Population Register to participate; you are one of these. We are contacting those who have been selected by SMS until we have received a response from 1,000 people aged 18-74 years - the same number of each gender. Some people who have received this letter may therefore find that they are not contacted.

### **WHAT DOES THE PROJECT MEAN FOR YOU?**

If you participate, you will be asked about exposure to violence and abuse in childhood and as an adult. Other stressful incidents are also addressed, as well as mental health, the use of health and support services and any contact with the police and the judiciary for those who have been victims of violence or abuse.

In order for us to contact you, we need to process some personal data. This is your name, national identity number, contact information, age, gender, marital status and address. For those who do not answer, we will only keep age, gender, marital status and place of residence. This is to give the best possible picture of those who have not responded. Your name and contact information will be deleted as soon as the survey is complete. You can request to be deleted from the data material.

### **POSSIBLE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES**

The most important motivation will probably be to make a contribution that could help others in the future. A similar survey five years ago has been very useful, in both preventive work and treatment, as well as for authorities, organisations, media and other interested parties. Previous studies have shown that most people think it is fine to answer questions about violence and abuse, and that the majority find it positive to participate.

For some, questions about difficult life experiences and health may feel uncomfortable to answer. Should you feel the need to speak to someone after you have responded, you will be offered this after you have submitted the online questionnaire. There are no other known disadvantages to participating in the study.

### **VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION AND THE POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWING YOUR CONSENT**

Participation in the survey is entirely voluntary. When you are contacted, you will be asked if you would like to participate in the study. You can withdraw from the study while answering the online questionnaire or after you have sent it in. You do not have to give a reason and it will have no negative consequences for you. If you withdraw, no further research will be carried out on your information. You can also request that your information in the project is deleted or returned within 30 days. The right to demand deletion or return does not apply if the data has been anonymised or published. This access may also be restricted if the information has been included in analyses that have already been performed. If you do not wish to be contacted, wish to withdraw or wish to be deleted from the data material, see below.

### **WHAT HAPPENS TO THE INFORMATION ABOUT YOU?**

The information registered about you will only be used as described under the purpose of the project, and it is planned to use it until 2030. Any extensions of the use and retention period may only occur after approval from the Regional Committee for Medical and Health Research Ethics (REK) and other relevant authorities. You have the right to see what information about you has been recorded and to have any errors in the recorded information corrected. You also have the right to see what security measures are used when processing the data. You can complain about the processing of your data to the Norwegian Data Protection Authority and to the data protection officer at NKVTS.

Ipsos conducts the survey and processes your information on the instructions of NKVTS. Ipsos keeps the link key with name, contact details and any national identity number in its own safe out of the reach of NKVTS. Ipsos cannot process the data for any purpose other than what is shown in this information letter. All publication of results must be done so that individual participants are anonymised. For control purposes, information about those who have participated will be kept for five years after the end of the project in 2030.

### **APPROVALS**

The Regional Committee for Medical and Health Research Ethics has performed a research ethics assessment and has approved the project [REK number: 186661]. NKVTS and project manager Maria Teresa Grønning Dale are responsible for data protection in the project. We process personal data about you on the basis that it is necessary in order to carry out a task that is in the public interest and for purposes related to scientific research, cf. the General Data Protection Regulation article 6 no. 1 letter e and article 9 no. 2 letter j.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you wish to opt out of being contacted, use this link: <https://w.ipsos.no/reservering-nkvts> or telephone Ipsos on 22 95 47 00 (between 09.00 and 15.00 on weekdays). Reservation lists are updated weekly. It may

therefore take a few days for your reservation to be registered. If you wish to access or delete your information, you can send an e-mail to Ipsos: [dpo.norway@ipsos.com](mailto:dpo.norway@ipsos.com)

If you have any questions about the project, you can visit [www.nkvts.no/trygg](http://www.nkvts.no/trygg), or contact the project manager at NKVTS, Maria Teresa Grønning Dale: [omfangsstudien@nkvt.no](mailto:omfangsstudien@nkvt.no) If you have any questions about data protection in the project, you can contact Ipsos, or NKVTS: [personvern@nsd.no](mailto:personvern@nsd.no) or 22 59 55 00 or our Data Protection Officer The Norwegian Centre for Research Data (NSD): [personvern@nkvt.no](mailto:personvern@nkvt.no) or 55 58 21 17