Instrumentation Protocol Changes

1. Introduction

The 2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) instrumentation protocols underwent many minor modifications from the instrumentation protocols employed for the 2002 NSDUH. A summary of the changes for the 2003 NSDUH can be divided into three topics: the Newton screening instrument, the computer-assisted interviewing (CAI) Questionnaire, and interviewer materials.

1.1 Newton Screening Instrument

The Newton screening instrument for the 2003 NSDUH received several wording updates and functional enhancements, yet the basic structure remained identical to the 2002 Newton screening instrument. The updates are summarized below.

- A button was added on the bottom of the View Selections/Roster screen, that is accessed from Select Case Screen, to go to the Record of Calls screen.

- The text, "First, just let me verify: do you live here?" in the middle of the Identify SR screen was increased in size to make it more noticeable.

- The Missed dwelling unit (DU) question was updated from "Are there any other living quarters, with a separate entrance, within this structure or on this property?" to "Are there any other living quarters within this structure or on this property, such as a separate apartment with a separate entrance?"

- The instruction on the Missed DU-Segment Kit Check screen was updated to include the word, "handwritten," so it reads, "IS THE ADDITIONAL UNIT REPORTED EARLIER [xxxx] ALREADY ON THE HANDWRITTEN LIST OF DWELLING UNITS?" This update was to alleviate any possible confusion over the list that was being referenced.

- The Members 21 or Older question was updated from, "Of the [fill # from Total SDU Members] people in this household who will live here for most of the time during the months of January, February and March, how many are now age 12 or older?" to "Of these [fill # from Total SDU Members] people, how many are now age 12 or older?" The skip pattern, if the response is 1, was updated to skip the Roster Intro screen and ask HU_ENUM message box: "CONFIRM RESPONSE: IS THERE ONLY 1 PERSON AGE 12 OR OLDER IN THIS HOUSEHOLD?" If the response to HU_ENUM is No, the field interviewer (FI) goes back to the Members 12 or Older screen so the entry can be corrected. If the response to HU_ENUM is Yes, the Roster message box asks "IS THIS SCREENING RESPONDENT THE ONE ELIGIBLE RESIDENT OF THE DU?" If Yes, the Roster screen uses text, "Please tell me your age on your last birthday." If No, the Roster screen uses text, "Please tell me this person's age on his or her last birthday." These similar updates were made to the GQU program for non-transient GQUs.

- The Roster Intro screen text was updated from, "Next I would like to ask a few questions about the householder—that is, a person who lives here and who owns or rents this home. I am referring to the person or one of the persons who is the householder for most of the time during the months of [REFERENCE MONTHS]" to "Next I would like to ask a few questions about the people who live here. Let's start with the person or one of the persons living here who owns or rents this home. We'll refer to this person as the householder."

- The Roster screen was updated from, "Please tell me the householder's age on his or her last birthday," to "Please tell me the age of this person on his or her last birthday." Then it uses the fill "your" for "this person" and "his or her" with a one-person household.

- The text was updated on three back-end screens that check the accuracy of the screening data:

  - The Verify Data screen text was updated from, "I have listed …(READ AGES AND RELATIONSHIPS ABOVE)," to "I need to make sure this list is accurate. I have listed [READ AGES, AND RELATIONSHIPS ROSTERED.] "

  - The Ineligible for Quarter message box was updated from, "Is there anyone that I have listed who will NOT live here for most of the time during the months of [REFERENCE MONTHS]? (Please let me know if I have included anyone who will live at school or somewhere else for most of the time during the months of [REFERENCE MONTHS].)" to "Have/Will all of these people (ONE PERSON HH = "Has/Will this person ") lived/live here for most of the time during the months of [REFERENCE MONTHS]? (Please let me know if I have included anyone who will live/lived at school or somewhere else for most of the time during [REFERENCE MONTHS].)"

  - The Other Eligible HH Member message box was updated from, "Is there anyone 12 or older that I have NOT listed who will live in this household for most of the time during the months of [REFERENCE MONTHS]? (Do not include anyone who will live at school or somewhere else for most of the time during the months of [REFERENCE MONTHS].)" to "Is there anyone we missed who is 12 or older and who will live/was living here for most of the time during the months of [REFERENCE MONTHS]?) (Do not include anyone who will live/lived at school or somewhere else for most of the time during [REFERENCE MONTHS]."

    Similar updates were made to the non-transient shelter GQU script. Also, a button to allow the FI to bring back these message boxes to re-read, as necessary, was added to the Verify Data screen.

- On the Respondent Selection screen, the ability to tap on the QuestID to increase the font size was added to make the ID easier to see.

- The Verification Screen question was updated from, "So that my supervisor may verify my work, may I please have your first name and telephone number?" to, "So that my supervisor may check the quality of my work, may I please have your first name and telephone number? "

- The Post Transmission message of, "Your transmission was successful," was enhanced to also include the number of cases received and removed, plus a note that the Newton is processing and not to turn it off while the lightbulb is visible or it will interrupt this important processing step. An example message is: "Your transmission was successful. 15 new cases were received and 10 existing cases were removed. The light bulb at the top of the screen indicates the Newton is processing data. DO NOT turn off the Newton while the light bulb is visible. Wait until the light bulb is gone. "

- Corrected a problem with the On Hold function so that when a case is put "On Hold" the data are not transmitted to RTI. The data will be transmitted to RTI once the case has been taken "Off Hold."

The 2003 Newton screening instrument can be found in Section 11 *Screening Questions*, in the *2003 Methodological Resource Book.*

1.2   CAI Questionnaire

Using the 2002 CAI Questionnaire as a base, the 2003 CAI Questionnaire saw the addition of questions and modules in the following substantive areas: cigarette and marijuana use history, drug treatment, adult mental health service utilization, and social environment.

The remaining modular components of the 2002 CAI Questionnaire remained essentially unchanged for the 2003 CAI Questionnaire except for minor modifications to wording and selective elimination of sufficient questions to allow for the additional burden of the questions and modules in the above substantive areas. Timing data from the 2002 survey results were used to ensure that the added components for the 2003 questionnaire did not increase the instrument length to be more than the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)-approved time burden of 60 minutes.

Listed below are the changes made to the 2003 CAI Questionnaire.

- All questions within the interview that request verbatim entries to specify responses of "other" were scripted for the FI.

- Inconsistency resolution questions for recent new users were added to all core drug modules in 2002. These questions are triggered if there is a discrepancy between the respondent's age at first use and month/year of first use. The respondent is routed through inconsistency resolution questions that ask which piece of information is correct, then ask the respondent to fix the incorrect pieces(s) of information. In 2003, the logic in this series of inconsistency resolution questions was modified to skip the last question in the series if the re-reported month and year matches the respondent's age at first use, or is the same as month and year originally given.

- The CAI instrument version, OMB Number, and OMB expiration date were updated.

- After QD01 (respondent gender), a question was added, QD01a, to verify that the FI has entered the correct gender of the respondent.

- Question QD06 (which race **best** describes you) was deleted as required by OMB.

- The introduction to the audio computer-assisted self-interviewing (ACASI) Tutorial was scripted so that the presentation to all respondents is now standardized. The introductory script stretches across two screens—INTROACASI1 and INTROACASI2.

- A screen, HEADPHONE, was added to the beginning of the Tutorial. This screen is now the first audio file that the respondent hears. The screen plays while the respondent is adjusting the headphones, so they do not miss any of the ACASI introduction.

- Logic was changed at the beginning of the Hallucinogens module to correct the fill wording used throughout the module:
  – Revised the hallucinogen "fills" in question LS02 and LSLAST for respondents whose only use was LSD, PCP, or Ecstasy but who answered one or more other lifetime hallucinogen questions as don't know (DK) or refused (RE). For these respondents, the respective "fills" are now "LSD or any hallucinogen," "PCP or any hallucinogen," or "Ecstasy or any hallucinogen."
  – For respondents whose only use was LSD, PCP, or Ecstasy and who answered all other lifetime hallucinogen questions as "no," the respective "fills" will continue to be "LSD," "PCP," or "Ecstasy." In these situations, respondents have unambiguously used only the one hallucinogen that they reported.
  – No changes were made to the skip/routing logic.

- In the Hallucinogens section, there are consistency checks for related recency among substances. If a respondent revised their first recency (i.e., "any hallucinogens" changes from over 12 months ago to past 30 days) in response to a consistency check, the CAI was not capturing the past 12-month and past 30-day frequency of use for that substance. To capture this information, a parallel set of questions was set up after each recency consistency check. Any respondent who revises their recency and has not received the past 12-month and/or past 30-day frequency of use questions is routed through them (LSFRAME4 - LSCC80, LSFRAME5 - LSCC89, and LSFRAME6 - LSCC98).

- On the first screen of the Inhalants module, the list of inhalants was corrected to include "other anesthetics" with "halothane and ether," and to include "lacquer thinner or other paint solvents."

- In the Stimulants section, there are also consistency checks for related recency among substances. If a respondent revised their first recency in response to a consistency check, the CAI was not capturing the past 12-month frequency of use for that substance. To capture this information, a parallel set of questions was set up after this recency consistency check. Any respondent who revises their recency and has not received the past 12-month frequency of use questions is routed through them (ST10a - ST13a).

- In SDHEUSE (How have you used heroin?), "powder" was added to the end of response option 2 to be consistent with question SD04 (recency of sniffed/snorted heroin powder).

- Item count questions in the Risk/Availability section (RK05 - RK19) were deleted.

- The Drug Dependence and Withdrawal section was renamed Substance Dependence and Abuse to be consistent with Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) documentation.

- In the Substance Dependence and Abuse module, the calculation for ST12MON (used a stimulant within the last 12 months) was incorrect. SD10b (recency of methamphetamine use with a needle) was omitted. Logic was changed for 2003 to include this question in the calculation of the ST12MON variable.

- A new module, Prior Marijuana and Cigarette Use, was added. This module was designed to capture additional information on respondents' history of marijuana and cigarette use. It consists of four main questions, with inconsistency resolution questions. The four main questions ask:

  – Lifetime marijuana users—whether they have used marijuana or hashish the year before last (LU01)

  – Former marijuana users who last used over 30 days ago—how old they were the last time they used marijuana (LU02)

  – Former cigarette smokers who last smoked over 30 days ago—how old they were the last time they smoked a cigarette (LU03)

  – Former daily cigarette smokers—how old they were the last time they smoked daily

- For TX22a (reasons for not getting needed drug or alcohol treatment) and TX23a (reasons for not getting **additional** needed drug or alcohol treatment), frequencies were high for the "other, specify" categories. Responses for these categories with the highest frequencies were added as new categories on subsequent screens (TX22b and TX23b, respectively). Additionally, the corresponding "other, specify" variables TX22SP1-4 and TX23SP1-4 were deleted.

- For ADMT27 (reasons for not getting needed mental health treatment), frequencies were high for the "other, specify" category. "Other" responses with the highest frequencies were added as new categories on a subsequent screen (ADMT27a). Additionally, the corresponding "other, specify" variables ADMT27SP1-4 were deleted.

- The Social Environment module was renamed Social and Neighborhood Environment, and the following questions were added or deleted:

  – The Item Count questions were deleted (SEN12d-SEN12k).

  – Questions SEN03a-d, SEN05-11c, SEN13a, and SEN 13c-14d were deleted. Questions remaining are SEN04 (how many times moved in the past 5 years), SEN12a-c (illegal behavior questions), SEN13b (how respondent feels about adults using marijuana once or twice) and the four religion questions (SENRELAT, SENREB1, SENREB2, SENREB3, and SENREB4).

- – A 10-item neighborhood cohesiveness scale was added to this section (SEN01a - SEN02e).

- The item count questions (YE18h-YE18o) in the Youth Experiences module were deleted.

- In the Serious Mental Illness module, the seven questions that pertain to affective psychosis were deleted (NPVOICE - NPVISION).

- The end of the ACASI section was set up so that once the FI goes through ENDAUDIO, the ACASI portion of the interview is locked. The FI can still make corrections to front-end demographics, but the CAI program skips over the ACASI sections.

- For respondents who report that they are currently in grades 1–12, new questions were added about the type of school the respondent attends (QD18a-d). This group of questions required a new showcard.

- For question QD24 (reasons for leaving high school before getting a diploma), the phrase I GOT SOMEONE PREGNANT was added to the end of response option 2.

- For question QD25 (how old were you when you stopped attending school), error checks were added if QD25 is less than 10 or if QD25 is greater than the respondent's current age. If either of these errors are triggered, the FI is prompted to fix them before continuing with the interview.

- To accommodate the Census coding operations, character lengths for the open-ended Industry & Occupation questions were shortened.

- In the household roster, some respondents were confused about the "self" category in MRELATON and FRELATON (what is this person's relationship to you?) when rostering themselves. An interviewer note was added to these two questions that allows the FI to prompt the respondent with "Is this you?" if the FI notices the respondent is having trouble.

- Edit checks within the household roster were added to help get the highest quality data in the field. For all edit checks, the FI is instructed to either fix the incorrect information, or explain the response. The FI now receives an error message if:

  - – A respondent reports having a spouse or partner 16 years old or younger.

  - – The respondent is 16 years old or younger, and reports having a spouse or partner.

  - – The respondent's son- or daughter- in-law is reported as the same age as or older than the respondent.

  - – The respondent's father- or mother- in-law is reported as the same age as or younger than the respondent.

  - – The respondent's biological parent is reported as less than 13 years older than the respondent.

  - – The respondent's biological child is reported as less than 13 years younger than the respondent.

- The respondent's biological sibling is reported as 25 years (or more) older or younger than the respondent.

- The instruction to exit PROXYINT (introduction to the proxy questions) was changed from press ENTER to press "1 ".

- Previously in QP01, the FI had to manually enter the relationship of the proxy to the respondent. For 2003, relationship information from the household roster is now filled into this question, and the FI enters the roster number of the proxy. The proxy's relationship to the respondent is then filled into subsequent questions.

- The Medicare and Medicaid questions (QHI01 and QHI02) were rearranged so that for each question, the definition is read before the question. The last syllable ("**care**" and "**aid** ") in these terms is highlighted in the questions, prompting the FI to emphasize the term.

- Verification questions were added for respondents less than 65 years old who indicated they received Medicare (QHI01v), and respondents 65 or older who indicated they received Medicaid (QHI02v). For both verification questions, the respondent is re-read the definition of Medicaid or Medicare, and then asked to verify their answer.

- Updated state Medicaid/Medicare, TANF and CHIP program names.

- For QI16a (receipt of child support), wording was changed that the definition of child support is not repeated the second time the question is read.

- If the respondent indicates in QI20 that their personal income is more than $20,000 a year, they now skip over the question that asks if the total family income is more or less than $20,000 (QI22).

- Questions asking the FI to estimate how many pillcards the respondent used (FIDBF04a-b) were deleted.

- For the question that asks for how much of the ACASI portion of the interview the respondent had their headphones on (FIDBF04c), a category was added for NONE/TOOK HEADPHONES OFF IMMEDIATELY.

The complete 2003 CAI Questionnaire with all updated or additional questions and modules highlighted can be found in Section 12, *Questionnaires*, in the *2003 Methodological Resource Book*.

1.3   Interviewer Materials

The 2003 interviewer materials and the protocols for using those materials were based on the 2002 interviewer materials and protocols. In addition to minor wording revisions and year updates (2002 to 2003), the following changes were made for the 2003 interviewer materials.

- Revisions to the Study Description included:
  - Adding the phrase, "or non-use" to the statement in the first paragraph that reads, "This study, sponsored by the United States Public Health Service, Substance

Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), collects information about tobacco, alcohol, and drug use or non-use;…" This helped stress to respondents the importance of interviewing people that have not used any of these substances.

- In the third paragraph, the telephone number for respondents to call if they have questions about their rights as survey participants was updated, along with a new note explaining that this is a toll-free number even though it does not start with "1-800. "

- The interviewer Identification Badge, now created digitally at RTI, looks more professional and official.

- The format of the 2003 Certificate of Participation was improved to make it look more official and less abstract. The information included on the certificate remained the same.

- Minor updates made to the Introduction and Informed Consent scripts included:

  - Additional text explained to respondents that their participation was appreciated.

  - The phrase explaining the verification process was changed from "verify the quality of my work" to "check the quality of my work."

  - New parentheses around the statements about setting up in a private location indicated that the text was now optional, for interviewer use as needed. For example, if the interviewer was already set up in a private location, the statement in parentheses would not be read.

- In addition to the above changes, the Introduction and Informed Consent for Interview Respondents Aged 12–17 was revised to indicate that each youth's responses represent over 1,000 youths in this country, instead of 1,000 American youths.

- The name of the Verification Form changed to the Quality Control Form as the term Quality Control is more familiar to the average respondent. The portions of the form filled out by the respondent and interviewer were reformatted with boxes to complete instead of just lines to write on.

- In 2003, the NSDUH report, *Academic Performance and Youth Substance Use* was added to the interviewer materials for use with respondents.

- The Refusal and Unable to Contact Letters were streamlined to more directly address the respondent's concerns. The text was simplified and shortened to reduce duplication of information covered in the Question & Answer Brochure, since a copy of the brochure is mailed with each letter.

Copies of the 2003 interviewer materials can be found in Section 10, *Written Communication*, in the *2003 Methodological Resource Book*.