

# Instrumentation Protocol Changes

## 1. Introduction

The 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) instrumentation protocols underwent many modifications from the instrumentation protocols employed for the 2005 NSDUH. A summary of the changes for the 2006 NSDUH can be divided into three topics: the computer-assisted interviewing (CAI) screening instrument, the CAI Questionnaire, and the interviewer materials.

### 1.1 Screening Application

Using the 2005 Screening Application as a base, the 2006 Screening Application received the addition of some text updates and technical enhancements.

- On the Select Case screen, the sort function by "Street" was updated to sort by street name within segment.
- Revised the Access Data categories and renamed the data collected to Physical Feature Data. Moved the data entry from a separate function to the first two screens of the screening application. The Physical Feature data are entered during the initial visit to the screener dwelling unit (SDU) and are immediately saved and transmitted during the next transmission.
- The Physical Feature data are collected on two screens—SDU Characteristic and Controlled Access Type.
- The Identify SR Screen Spanish translation was updated from: Y ¿tiene 18 o más de edad? (And are you 18 or more years of age) to: Y ¿tiene 18 de edad o más? (And are you 18 years of age or more).
- On the Informed Consent screen, added "It also explains that your answers are used for research purposes only..." to the text so it reads, "Please read this statement. It describes the survey and the legislation that assures the confidentiality of any information you provide. It also explains that your answers are used for research purposes only and that your participation is voluntary. If anyone is selected for the full interview, that person will receive a \$30 cash payment after the interview is completed."
- Updated instructions on MDU-Segment Kit Check screen from "additional unit reported earlier" to "unit that you are attempting to add."
- Updated instructions on MDU-Geographic Interval screen by adding a reference to the Missed Unit also being located within the segment boundary.
- Added Link Line number display. When tapping the address at the top of the screen to view the enlarged address, the link line is also displayed in this box.

- During household screening situations where the householder is also the Screening Respondent, changed the relationship question from "How is this person related to the householder?" to "How is this person related to you, the householder?"
- At the Confirm Roster message box, updated text to refer to "you" when talking to the Screening Respondent.
- Updated the Screening Respondent message box to include an optional question, "(Is that you?)," to use in situations where it is unclear which roster member is the Screening Respondent.
- Added a ChangeSR button on the roster question screens to allow the identification of the Screening Respondent to be immediately and easily corrected, if it was entered incorrectly.
- Updated the Other Members Screen to remove the quarterly time period to reduce the repetitiveness of information in the screening questions.
- Added Exit buttons to the bottom of three screens that did not have the option to exit the screening—Other Members, Ineligible for Quarter, and Another Eligible Member.
- Added an Other Language screen that lists 11 language options when coding the Language Barrier, Other as well as an Other, Specify screen. Language options are Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Polish, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Other.
- On the Verification screen, updated the default responses on the Delete Phone Number box from "Yes" to "No."
- On the Calendar, added an "S/I Other" category that automatically loads the CaseID but can be used for purposes other than documenting a screening or interview appointment.
- Updated the transmission software so that On Hold data transmit to RTI but are not processed in the control system in the normal way. The data are maintained in a separate location so they can be accessed if necessary.
- Updated the program to allow "Modify/Date/Time" to be changed only if a change has been made to the event code or event Date/Time, as opposed to changing it if the ROC was being opened for any reason, such as being reviewed.
- Updated the Reload Training Cases so that when this is conducted, it also configures the quarter value of the training cases (prior to this all training cases were configured as Quarter 1 cases).

The 2006 Screening Application instrument can be found in Section 4, Screening Application, in the *2006 Methodological Resource Book*.

## 1.2 CAI Questionnaire

Using the 2005 CAI Questionnaire as a base, questions were added to the 2006 CAI Questionnaire in the following substantive areas: methamphetamine use, emerging new drugs, alcohol consumption, and income. For respondents currently attending school, questions about the type of school were deleted from the back-end demographics section.

Listed below are the specific CAI changes made for 2006:

- The spelling of OxyContin was corrected throughout the 2006 questionnaire. It had been misspelled as "Oxycontin" in previous years.
- The CAI instrument version and the OMB expiration date for the main study were updated.
- A new instruction was added to the CALENDAR screen reminding the field interviewer (FI) to give the calendar to the respondent. This was intended to increase the likelihood that respondents will receive and use it during the interview.
- The Calendar screen was split onto three separate screens (calendar, calendr2, and calendr3) to facilitate Calendar set-up for the interviewers.
- The ACASI Introduction screen was split onto three separate screens (IntroAcasi1, IntroAcasi3, and IntroAcasi4) to make it easier for interviewers to explain how to use the laptop to respondents.
- For respondents who reported never having used methamphetamine, Desoxyn<sup>®</sup>, or Methedrine in the core Stimulants module, and then reported some recency of methamphetamine use in SD17b, follow-up questions (SD17a1-SD17a2SP) were added to determine the reason for this inconsistency.
- Questions SD19 to SD30 were added to capture nonmedical use of GHB, Adderall<sup>®</sup>, Ambien<sup>®</sup>, over-the-counter cough/cold medicines, Ketamine, DMT, AMT, Foxy (5-MeO-DIPT), and Salvia divinorum. The questions ask about lifetime use and recency of use, and for respondents reporting past month or past year use of cough/cold medicines just to get high, the names of cough/cold medicines used. These substances have been mentioned frequently in the core other-specify drug questions.
- Pictures of Adderall and Ambien were placed onscreen for items SD20 and SD21. These "electronic pillcards" were used in place of developing new hardcopy pillcards.
- The new response option "no penalty" was added to SP07, about the legal consequences of first-time marijuana possession in the respondent's State. This was added because Alaska assesses no penalty for first-time possession of an ounce or less of marijuana.
- For respondents who report that they obtained pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, sedatives, or methamphetamine from a friend or relative for free, new follow-up questions (LU27a-LU36a) ask how the friend or relative originally obtained the drug. These items were added due to the large number of respondents in 2005 who reported obtaining these drugs from a friend or relative for free.

- The programming for TX43, about enrollment in any alcohol or drug treatment program on October 1 of the previous calendar year, was changed to use a filled calculation rather than a manual updating of the year. This was done to avoid the possibility that staff might mistakenly fail to update the item in future years' surveys.
- TX52 and TX53 were added to the Drug Treatment module to ask whether the respondent has attended a self-help group in the past 12 months for help with alcohol or illicit drug use. These items are administered to respondents who have previously indicated that they used these substances but did not receive treatment through a self-help group. The items were added to assess whether the use of the word "treatment" in previous items, which is inconsistent with the language used in the self-help/recovery community, is leading to an underestimate of attendance at these types of meetings.
- The module name for "Serious Mental Illness" was changed to "Psychological Distress."
- The upper age range of Adolescent Depression items YD22a, YD22c, YD37a, and YD37c (age at first or most recent occurrence of depressive episode) was changed from 110 to 17. This was done to help prevent errors in reporting.
- Added a new module—Consumption of Alcohol. This module is administered to all respondents who reported in the core alcohol section that they ever had a drink of an alcoholic beverage. Questions asked of all ages include the number of drinks consumed on the most recent occasion in the past 30 days, use of core drugs while drinking on the most recent drinking occasion, lifetime occurrence of binge drinking, and age of first binge drinking occasion. Respondents aged 12 to 20 are also asked the following questions about the most recent drinking occasion: whether they were alone or with others, where they drank, and how and from whom they obtained the alcohol.
- Female respondents who report never having consumed five or more drinks on a given occasion (the current NSDUH definition of binge drinking) are asked a parallel set of items redefining binge drinking as four or more drinks. This will permit benchmarking of NSDUH data with data from Federal surveys that use gender-specific binge drinking definitions.
- New variables were constructed indicating which drugs the respondent reports having used in the past 30 days, as well as a customized fill mentioning the name of the single substance type or "any of these drugs" used in that period. These fills are used in the questions about use of any other drug while drinking on the most recent drinking occasion.
- The phrase "past 12 months" in item QD13 (how many times the respondent has moved) was bolded in order to make it more noticeable to the respondents and to better differentiate it from the earlier item that asked how often the respondent has moved in the past 5 years (SEN04 and YE04).
- Items QD13a through QD13c were added to determine State of residence 1 year ago and 2 years ago. These items will be used in analysis of State-level retrospective data

on substance use, by allowing analysts to exclude respondents who did not live in the State in the year of interest.

- Items QD13d through QD13f were added to obtain information on displacement due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Respondents who lived in the Gulf Coast States at the time the hurricanes hit are questioned about relocation and length of time in temporary housing.
- Items QD18a through QD18d (about the type of school the respondent attends and the lowest and highest grades at that school) and their associated error checks were deleted.
- An interviewer note was added to QD41 instructing FIs not to include days of planned vacation in the number of workdays missed because the respondent did not want to be there.
- A showcard was created for item QD51 (consequences for a first-time positive drug test at work) to help respondents frame their answers, and all subsequent showcard number references were updated accordingly.
- In the household roster, an instruction was added to CHAGEMON (age in months of children under 2 years old) explaining that the interviewer should enter "1" for babies under 1 month old.
- The "family relationship fill" (used in the proxy and income items) for "unmarried partner" was changed to "partner" in order to simplify the question text for interviewers and reduce the possible perception of a social stigma on the part of the respondents.
- State Medicaid, CHIP, and TANF program names were updated.
- Fills were added to all Health Insurance questions to tailor question wording toward sample and proxy respondents. These fills replace the text "[you/SAMPLE MEMBER]," which required interviewers to provide their own fill for each question.
- Wording for income questions was tailored to family size. Wording of some income questions was revised based on the use of a proxy or a self-responder.
- Interviewer notes for items QI07A and QI07B were expanded to inform interviewers that Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and free/reduced school lunches are not included in the definition of food stamps.
- The interviewer notes for QI17, QI18A, and QI18B were expanded to clarify that respondents should not report WIC, free/reduced school lunches, or college financial aid as "other sources" of income.
- A sampling algorithm was added so that 50 percent of the reliability study sample (1,500 respondents) and 1,000 respondents in the main study sample received a new set of income items (Sample B), and all other respondents received the current income items (Sample A). The purpose of this split sample was to determine whether comparable data on income can be obtained with fewer questions. While total personal income and total family income were still asked of Sample B respondents,

they were not asked if each source of income was received by the sample person. In Sample B, all source of income items were asked for the family as a whole.

- The new set of income questions (QI05N, QI03N, QI07N, QI09N, QI10N, QI12AN, QI12BN, INTRTINN, and QI20N) asks if certain sources of income were received by anyone in the family, and asks specific questions about only five sources of income: wages from employment, Supplemental Security Income, food stamps, TANF, and non-cash welfare. Sample B respondents were then shown a list of the other possible sources of income and asked to include these sources in their estimate of total personal and family income.
- The logic for income screens HAND18A and QI23B was updated to include the split sample.
- Items QI25 through QI26SP (Internet usage) were deleted, and the wording of QI24 (number of telephones in household) was changed from "the next question" to "the last question."
- The domain for RRETURN was changed from all respondents to those who completed the Time 2 reliability study interview.
- Respondent debriefing questions for the Time 2 reliability study interview (FOLLWINT to FOLLWEXT) were moved from after the THANKR screen (in the reliability study pretest) to before the VERIFID screen. This change was made to make the Time 2 re-interview flow better.
- The variable VERIFID was changed to QCID to reflect the Verification form's change of name to the Quality Control form. Additionally, wording was added to remind the interviewers that the QC ID they are to enter into the laptop is located in the upper right-hand corner of the QC form (and that the hyphen must be included).
- The following items were changed for the 2006 reliability study as a result of the reliability study pretest conducted in 2005:
  - The instructions for Time 1 reliability study interviews were moved from screen INCENT01 to new screen INCENT01A, and the instructions for Time 2 interviews were moved to new screen INCENT01B. This change was made to simplify instrument development and programming.
  - For the Time 1 reliability study interview, wording for the recruitment screens was modified (RECRUIT1, RECRUIT2, THANKR2), and a screen was added (PARENT) to ask minor respondents to have their parent or guardian return to the room to get parental permission for the minor's participation.
  - Debriefing items regarding the Time 2 reliability study interview questions/comments and strategies (T1DBF1S to T1DBF3S; T1DBFOUT to T2DBF03) were deleted.
- Items INCENT02 through INCENT17 (respondent's reaction to the incentive payment), FIDBF03 through FIDBF04S (whether/how the interviewer assisted the respondent during the audio computer-assisted self-interviewing [ACASI] section),

and FIDBF10 (how the laptop influenced the respondent's decision to participate) were deleted.

The complete 2006 CAI Questionnaire, with all updated or additional questions and modules highlighted, can be found in Section 5, Questionnaires, in the *2006 Methodological Resource Book*.

### **1.3 Interviewer Materials**

The 2006 interviewer materials and protocols for using those materials were based on the 2005 interviewer materials and protocols. In addition to minor wording revisions and year updates (2005 to 2006), the following changes were made for the 2006 interviewer materials:

- Pillcard B in the Showcard Booklet was updated to include a new 5 milligram strength of Flexeril<sup>®</sup> in the picture block for this drug.
- The Quality Control (QC) Form was revised so that the year is preprinted in the Interviewer portion of the form. The QC Form envelope was changed to a "pull and seal" self-adhesive envelope.
- In 2006, the NSDUH reports, *Marijuana Use in Substate Areas* and *Driving under the Influence (DUI) among Young Persons*, were added to the interviewer materials for use with respondents.
- Revisions to the Sorry I Missed You Card included the following:
  - Added the Department of Health and Human Services logo to the back of the card.
  - Created an English-only version of the card.
- On the Interview Payment Receipt, the text referencing the two helpline numbers was updated to rephrase some of the statements with the word "you" in them. The word "ever" was added to the first sentence mentioning the helplines to emphasize the helpline information has nothing to do with the respondent's answers during the interview.
- Revisions to the Question-and-Answer brochure included the following:
  - RTI's contact information was updated to include RTI's full address and the respondent 1-800 number. This was helpful for respondents who did not have Internet access but would like more information on NSDUH.
  - For 2006, the Q&A brochures were printed in navy blue ink on glossy white paper for a more professional look.
- Revisions to the NSDUH Highlights included the following:
  - Updated to reflect the 2004 study results.
  - The Mental Health section on the first page was updated to include findings on depression instead of Serious Mental Illness as reported in previous years.

- The table on the back was updated with information on illicit drug use among persons aged 12 or older from the 2002, 2003, and 2004 surveys.
- The Newspaper Article handout was updated with a *USA Today* article on NSDUH. The article featured the survey results on States' drug and alcohol use.
- Revisions to the Spanish Card included the following:
  - The text in the first paragraph on the front side of the card was updated to read, "Hello—I'm sorry, but I don't speak Spanish. I'm here because I'm working on a nationwide health study sponsored by the U.S. Public Health Service. This study is completely confidential."
  - The text in the first paragraph on the backside of the card was simplified to read, "A Spanish-speaking coworker will be coming back to speak with you about this important study."
  - The size of the Spanish Card was reduced to the same size as the Appointment Card.
- An Other Language Introduction Card was created for 2006 containing introduction text in ten different languages asking for someone who speaks English. This card was used when a person did not speak English or Spanish. The ten languages included on the card represent the most commonly spoken language in the home in the United States other than English and Spanish. The languages were Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Korean, Polish, Russian, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.
- An RTI/SAMHSA Fact Sheet was added for 2006. This handout contained information on RTI and SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), contact information for NSDUH, and listed key accomplishments and research highlights in the history of both organizations.
- NSDUH portfolios and pens were provided to interviewers for 2006. These were useful in keeping materials organized in the field and added to the interviewer's professional appearance.
- The ePTE Working Copy was updated to include the year and project and task numbers. A new blank start and stop table was added to the bottom of the form for interviewer use in recording miles and hours.
- The FI Segment Access Documentation Form was revised as follows:
  - Reformatted the top portion of the first page of the form.
  - Included additional options for DU Type and Type of Situation.
  - Military branches listed on the second page were arranged in alphabetical order.

Copies of the 2006 interviewer materials can be found in Section 7, Written Communication, in the *2006 Methodological Resource Book*.