

INSTRUMENTATION PROTOCOL CHANGES

1. Introduction

The 2000 NHSDA instrumentation protocols underwent minor modifications from the instrumentation protocols employed for the 1999 NHSDA. A summary of the changes for the 2000 NHSDA can be divided into three topics: the Newton screening instrument, CAI Questionnaire, and interviewer materials.

1.1 Newton Screening Instrument

The Newton screening instrument for the 2000 NHSDA received minor wording updates, yet the basic structure and questions remained identical to the 1999 Newton screening instrument. The wording updates are summarized below.

- On the opening screen, the introductory text used by FIs was modified to specify the *Department of Health and Human Services* as the study sponsor, replacing *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration* and also to indicate that *a lead letter should have been received*, replacing text noting that *a lead letter from RTI should have been received*.
- The explanation given for the “head of household” or *householder* was revised to clarify the definition for the respondent.
- For the Race question, *Alaskan Native* was updated to *Alaska Native*.
- Within the additional probe used to help a respondent decide about Hispanic origin, the phrase *...origin in some other Spanish country?* was changed to *...origin in some other Spanish-speaking country?*
- After entering all the demographic data for a household member, the Newton displayed the data in a confirmation script that the FI read back to the respondent to help ensure all responses were recorded properly.
- The text defining the persons to include on the roster contained an optional probe to specifically exclude persons living at another place—*...at school or somewhere else—* for most of the time during the reference period.

The 2000 Newton screening instrument can be found in section 10, ***Screening Questions***, in the ***2000 Methodological Resource Book***.

1.2 CAI Questionnaire

Using the 1999 CAI Questionnaire as a base, the 2000 CAI Questionnaire saw the addition of questions and modules in the following substantive areas: mental health, mental health service utilization, drug dependence and withdrawal, drug treatment, industry and occupation, youth access to tobacco products, cigarette cost, and substance abuse and treatment need.

The remaining modular components of the 1999 CAI Questionnaire remained essentially unchanged for the 2000 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 1999 survey results were used to ensure that the added components for the 2000 questionnaire did not increase the instrument length to be over the OMB-approved time burden of 60 minutes.

Listed below are the changes made to the 2000 CAI Questionnaire.

- Revised the initial Race item to include *Asian* as a separate category. Respondents then chose the specific Asian group in a follow-up question;
- Revised the classification for *American Indian or Alaska Native* to include respondents who trace their lineage to North American, Central American, or South American tribes;
- Added follow-up questions to certain essential gateway questions within the core modules to probe *don't know* and *refused* responses;
- Added questions about age of first use for reported users of LSD or PCP;
- Added questions to resolve inconsistencies in the Stimulants module;
- Moved the sensitive questions regarding pregnancies to the ACASI portion of the interview;
- Included the following new modules:
 - Adult Mental Health Services Utilization
 - Adolescent Mental Health Services Utilization
 - Youth Mental Health
 - Drug Dependence and Withdrawal;
- Included questions about cigarette purchase prices and about purchases by underage individuals;
- Added questions to the Drug Treatment module regarding the locations where treatment was received, whether any treatment was being received currently, and the method of payment for current treatment;
- Added questions to the Special Topics module asking for past year history for arrests relating to substance use and sexual offenses;
- Included Industry and Occupation questions;
- Added questions to the Health Insurance series to accommodate types of coverage besides the coverages routinely included;
- Asked for the number of touch-tone telephones in the household.

The complete 2000 CAI Questionnaire—with all updated or additional questions and modules highlighted—can be found in section 11, *Questionnaires*, in the *2000 Methodological Resource Book*.

1.3 Interviewer Materials

The 2000 interviewer materials—and the protocols for using those materials—were based on the 1999 interviewer materials and protocols. In addition to minor wording revisions, year updates [1999 to 2000], and the removal of all PAPI references, the following changes were made for the 2000 interviewer materials.

- The 2000 lead letter was printed on Department of Health and Human Services letterhead, a change from the 1999 lead letter which was printed on RTI letterhead. Also, the 2000 lead letter contained the signature of the SAMHSA Project Officer in addition to the signature of RTI’s National Field Director.
- Before each quarter during 1999, lead letters to selected dwelling units [SDUs] were sent from RTI’s home office in Research Triangle Park. In 2000, this responsibility was given to Field Interviewers [FIs], allowing the mailing of the individual letters to be more accurately timed to the FI’s planned schedule for visiting the SDUs. The FIs reviewed all addresses for completeness, signed the letters, and mailed them prior to and through the first part of the quarter so that the letters arrived fairly close to the time the FIs expected to be in the area.
- The 2000 Reference Date Calendar was printed with the English version on one side and the Spanish version on the reverse, as opposed to preparing separate language-based calendars.

Copies of the 2000 interviewer materials can be found in Section 9, *Written Communication*, in the *2000 Methodological Resource Book*.