

Instrumentation Protocol Changes

The 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) instrumentation protocols underwent several modifications from the protocols employed for the 2015 NSDUH. A summary of the changes for the 2016 NSDUH can be divided into three topics: (1) the computer-assisted interviewing (CAI) tablet screening instrument, (2) the CAI questionnaire, and (3) the interviewer materials.

1. Screening Instrument

Using the 2015 Screening Application as a base, questions, response options, and informed consent wording were modified for the 2016 Screening Application. Listed below are the Screening Application changes for 2016:

- As necessary, dates were updated in the screening program.
- On the Study Introduction screen, in English and Spanish, the address for the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality was updated.
- On the Total SDU Members screen, in English and Spanish, the phrase “the months of” was deleted from this item for brevity.
- On the Relation screen, in English and Spanish, “foster or adoptive” was added to the parenthetical statement defining the son, daughter, and parent relationships, and “half, foster or adoptive” was added to the brother and sister relationships to be consistent with the wording used in the CAI interview. The parenthetical “(incl. step)” was deleted from the parent-in-law relationship. Also, “Live-in Partner” was revised to “Unmarried Partner” and “Friend/Roommate” was revised to “Housemate or Roommate” to be consistent with the wording used in the CAI interview.
- The HOUSEHOLDER GENDER and GENDER questions, in English and Spanish, were revised for the field interviewer (FI) to say “Are you male or female?” instead of “Is this person male or female?”
- On the Confirm Roster screen, in English and Spanish, minor wording changes were made to be consistent with wording used in the CAI interview. The correct article (an) will be used for ages 18 and 80 to 89 years old. The phrase “Is that correct?” was edited to “Is this correct?” to be consistent with the CAI instrument.
- The View Menu on the screening application was updated to include a “View by Segment” option.
- On the Screening and Interview Refusals screen, the response option “Welfare/INS concern” was updated to be “Welfare/INS/ICE/USCIS concern” to reflect current agency names.
- On the Verification screen, the instructions to confirm a phone number with the respondent were moved to follow the phone number entry box.

- The response option for FIDBF6 was updated to “CHILD(REN) UNDER 18” so that the response options would be exhaustive.
- In the Parental Introductory Scripts, in English and Spanish, “drug use or non-use” was changed to “drug use and non-use.”
- In the Parental Introductory Scripts, in English and Spanish, parentheses were added around the “Is he/she available?” phrase to make this optional.
- In the Parental Introductory Scripts, in English and Spanish, the program was revised to fill the child’s gender so that it says “Is he available?” or “Is she available?” instead of “Is he/she available?”

2. CAI Questionnaire

Using the 2015 CAI Questionnaire as a base, questions and routing were modified for the 2016 CAI Questionnaire. Listed below are the CAI Questionnaire changes for 2016:

General CAI Issues

- A warning pop-up box was added if an interviewer or respondent presses F5. The pop-up confirms that the FI or respondent wants to return to the beginning of the interview. If not, the FI or respondent can remain on the current question.
- All pop-up boxes were revised so that the error message wording is not hidden when the calendar is showing.
- Logic for AGE1 and DKREFAGE was edited so that anyone who returns to the beginning of the interview and enters DK/REF is considered ineligible for the interview.
- The logic in the CAI program code for PRYRDKRE1 was corrected to include situations when the consistency check for age at first misuse of an individual drug (PRCC05A1) was answered as DK/REF. TRYRDKRE1, STYRDKRE1, and SVYRDKRE1 were similarly revised. The change only affects the CAI program code. The specifications for these items are correct.

Module Specific

Introduction

- The CAI version number and OMB expiration date were updated.

Core Demographics

- The address for the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (CBHSQ) was updated.
- The Marital Status questions (QD07 and QD08) were moved to computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) administration to improve data quality. The wording of these items reverted to the wording used in the 2014 NSDUH, which was appropriate for CAPI administration.

Tutorial

- INTRO1 was edited to include the word “ENTER” and the image of a left-facing arrow to match the design of the laptop introduced in 2015.
- EYECOLOR was edited to say “press [ENTER]” to be consistent with similar items.
- A new tutorial item (NOTUSED) was added to show respondents how to answer questions when they have not done any of the things listed in the response options. An edit check was added to prevent respondents from choosing an item from this list while also specifying that they have not done any of the things listed. The Practice Question numbers were updated throughout the module to account for this addition.
- The rangeerr item was edited to say “press [ENTER]” to be consistent with similar items.

Pain Relievers Screener

- Roxicet™ was deleted from PR03, and the response options were renumbered due to the discontinuation and low prevalence of this drug in earlier data collections. Roxicet was also removed from any subsequent definitions and routing logic.
- PRCC01, a consistency check item that is triggered if the first three Pain Relievers questions are answered with a consecutive “1” or a “2,” was added. This item allows respondents to either confirm the responses or return to the questions and correct their answers.
- Clarification was added to response options in PR05, instructing respondents not to include over-the-counter Tylenol®.
- Actiq® was deleted from PR07, and the response options were renumbered due to low prevalence of this drug in earlier data collections. Actiq® was also removed from any subsequent definitions and routing logic.
- Buprenorphine plus naloxone (generic) was added to PR08 response options for comprehensiveness. Buprenorphine plus naloxone (generic) was added to the appropriate subsequent definitions and routing logic.

Tranquilizers Screener

- TRCC01, a consistency check item that is triggered if the first three Tranquilizers questions are answered with a consecutive “1” or a “2,” was added. This item allows respondents to either confirm the responses or return to the questions and correct their answers.
- TR05 was deleted due to low prevalence of buspirone, hydroxyzine, and meprobamate in earlier data collections. TR05 was also removed from any subsequent definitions and routing logic.

Stimulants Screener

- Ritalin SR was deleted from ST03 due to discontinuation. Ritalin SR was also removed from any subsequent definitions and routing logic.
- STCC01, a consistency check item that is triggered if the first three Stimulants questions are answered with a consecutive “1” or a “2,” was added. This item allows respondents to either confirm the responses or return to the questions and correct their answers.

Sedative Screener

- SVCC01, a consistency check item that is triggered if the first three Sedatives questions are answered with a consecutive “1” or a “2,” was added. This item allows respondents to either confirm the responses or return to the questions and correct their answers.

Pain Relievers Main Module

- Questions on Roxicet™ (PRY09 and PRY09a) were deleted due to low prevalence in earlier data collections. This item was also removed from subsequent definitions and routing logic.
- Questions on Actiq® (PRY24 and PRY24a) were deleted due to low prevalence in earlier data collections. This item was also removed from subsequent definitions and routing logic.
- New questions to measure misuse of buprenorphine plus naloxone were added. These items were added as PRY28 and PRY28a.
- Items were renumbered throughout the module to maintain sequential ordering, and all definitions and routing logic were updated.

Tranquilizers Main Module

- Questions on buspirone, hydroxyzine, and meprobamate (TRY13, TRY13a, TRY14, TRY14a, TRY15, and TRY15a) were deleted due to low prevalence in earlier data collections. These items were also removed from subsequent definitions and routing logic.

Stimulants Main Module

- Ritalin SR was deleted from STY08 and STY08a due to low prevalence in earlier data collections.

Special Topics

- The previous versions of SP06a-c, which asked about driving under the influence of alcohol and illegal drugs together, alcohol only, and illegal drugs only, were deleted. New questions were added as SP06a-h, which ask about driving under the influence

of alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, crack, heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, methamphetamine, and alcohol only.

Health

- Part c of HLTH20 was edited to read “Use marijuana or other illegal drugs?” instead of “Use illegal drugs?” to clarify the inclusion of marijuana for states where it may not be an illegal drug.
- In items HLTH27, HLTH28a-HLTH28cc, HLTH30, HLTH32-HLTH37, HLTH39, and HLTH41, text was added to instruct the respondent to enter 1 for a diagnosis that was first given when a respondent was less than a year old on all first age of diagnosis questions.

Youth Experiences

- The following instruction was added to YE09 to better define school: “The next questions are about school. By “school,” we mean elementary school, junior high or middle school, high school, or a college or university. Please include home schooling as well.”

Education

- The text of QD17 was edited to better explain school enrollment. The question now asks “Do you go to school?” instead of “Are you now attending or are you currently enrolled in school?” Additional clarification was provided to answer yes if on holiday or a break from school.
- The text of QD10d was edited to include a list of immediate family members (spouse, unmarried partner, mother, father, son, daughter, brother, and sister) and to instruct respondents to include only those family members listed when responding to this question.
- The text for QD10e was edited to ask about members of “your family” rather than members of “your immediate family,” and the response options were edited to say “your” family member instead of “my” family member to be consistent with the wording in QD10d. Also, the option to report “another member of my family” was removed from QD10e.
- QD10f, which asked respondents to write in the relationship if “another member of my family” was selected in QD10e, was deleted.

Employment

- The “Don’t remember” response option was removed from QD45, which asks about educational information given in the workplace regarding the use of alcohol or drugs.

Household Roster

- Text was added to MRELATON to encourage interviewers to ask “Is that you?” if it is clear respondent is rostering himself. This text will only appear for male

respondents. Additional relationship categories (brother-in-law, uncle, nephew, cousin, and ex-husband) were added to MRELATON, the category “boarder or roomer” was revised to “tenant, boarder or exchange student,” and the categories were reordered to be consistent with the relationship categories used in the screening process. Logic was updated throughout the instrument to reflect these changes. These changes necessitated deleting the interviewer note on MRELATON due to redundancy.

- Text was added to FRELATON to encourage interviewers to ask “Is that you?” if it is clear respondent is rostering herself. This text will only appear for female respondents. Additional relationship categories (sister-in-law, aunt, niece, cousin, and ex-wife) were added to FRELATON, the category “boarder or roomer” was revised to “tenant, boarder or exchange student,” and the categories were reordered to be consistent with the relationship categories used in the screening process. Logic was updated throughout the instrument to reflect these changes. These changes necessitated deleting the interviewer note on FRELATON due to redundancy.

Proxy Information

- The text “and [ENTER]” was added to PROXYINT for accuracy.

Health Insurance

- A colon was added to the end of the TOPROXY statement.
- The wording of QHI01, QHI01v, QHI02, and QHI02v was edited to include “people with disabilities” rather than “disabled persons.”
- Medicaid and CHIP names for QHI02 and QHI02A, respectively, were updated to reflect annual state program name changes.
- The text of QHI06 was edited to include health plans purchased through the Health Insurance Marketplace and to clarify the meaning of HMO (health maintenance organization).

Income

- INTROINC was updated so that if a respondent selected “Other Relative” as a proxy for the Health Insurance and Income questions, then the first roster member was correctly included in question fills in subsequent modules. This was a change to the CAI program only.
- The wording of QI03N was edited to include “people with low income who are aged, blind, or disabled” rather than “low income, aged, blind, and disabled persons.”
- QI07N was reworded to place the question “In 2015, did your partner or you receive SNAP benefits?” after the definition of SNAP to make it easier to understand. The instruction not to include WIC or free or reduced school lunches was moved so that the respondent sees it before the question instead of after the question.
- TANF names for QI08N were updated to reflect annual state program name changes.

- An interviewer note was added to INTRTINN to clarify how to record income received for child support.
- CELL1 was moved to appear after CELL2 to avoid potential respondent confusion for these items.
- ENDPROXY, which allows the interviewer to thank the proxy and gives instructions on whether the Quality Control form should be filled out with the parent/guardian of a minor respondent or with an adult respondent, was added.

Verification

- The text of INCENT01 was edited to instruct the interviewer to date the interview incentive receipt at this time.
- The text of FIEXIT was updated to use green font in the CAI program to be consistent with NSDUH CAI conventions.

Copies of the 2016 Screener Specifications and CAI Questionnaire can be found in Section 4, Screening Specifications, and Section 5, Questionnaires, in the *2016 NSDUH Methodological Resource Book*.

3. Interviewer Materials

The 2016 interviewer materials and protocols for using those materials were based on the 2015 interviewer materials and protocols. In addition to minor wording revisions and year updates (2015 to 2016), the following changes were made to the 2016 interviewer materials:

- The Quality Control Form included the updated survey year and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) address. The Quality Control Forms were printed on light yellow-colored paper.
- The Study Description included the updated survey year and SAMHSA address.
- The RTI/SAMHSA Fact Sheet included the updated SAMHSA address.
- The Q&A (Question and Answer) Brochure included the updated SAMHSA address.
- The Summary of Questionnaire included the updated survey year.
- The Verification Letter included the updated SAMHSA address.
- The Who Uses the Data handout included the current name for the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids.
- The Newspaper Article handout included a new article featuring information on depressive episodes among youths aged 12 to 17.
- The NSDUH Respondent Website content included minor text updates and the updated survey year. The NSDUH in the News web page was updated with links to recent articles and reports, and a video containing footage from the most recent NSDUH press conference was added.

- Four CBHSQ Data Spotlights were added to the interviewer materials for use with respondents:
 - Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2015, June 11). *Underage drinking declined between 2002 and 2013*. The CBHSQ Report. Retrieved from <https://www.samhsa.gov/>
 - Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2015, May 20). *1.5 million young adults do not receive needed mental health services*. The CBHSQ Report. Retrieved from <https://www.samhsa.gov/>
 - Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2015, June 26). *Nonmedical use of prescription pain relievers varies by race and ethnicity*. The CBHSQ Report. Retrieved from <https://www.samhsa.gov/>
 - Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2015, May 7). *1 in 15 veterans had a substance use disorder in the past year*. The CBHSQ Report. Retrieved from <https://www.samhsa.gov/>
- The Showcard Booklet underwent several updates for 2016, in addition to updating the survey year and SAMHSA address:
 - Showcards 6 and 7 were updated to reflect changes to the MRELATON and FRELATON questions in the Household Roster portion of the interview. Additionally, the relationship categories were reordered to correspond with questionnaire specifications.
 - In the Job Aids section, minor wording changes were made to accurately reflect tablet operations and screen names and text, remove the reference to the Data Quality Knowledge Notebook, and add a reminder to the Equipment Maintenance Checklist to put the tablet into sleep mode between screenings.
- The NSDUH Highlights were updated to reflect the 2014 study results.
- The SAMHSA Authorization letter included the updated survey year.
- The Interview Incentive Receipt included the updated survey year.
- The Data Collection Agreement included the updated project number.

Copies of the 2016 interviewer materials can be found in Section 7, Written Communication, in the *2016 NSDUH Methodological Resource Book*.