

Instrumentation Protocol Changes

The 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) instrumentation protocols underwent several modifications from the protocols employed for the 2017 NSDUH. A summary of the changes for the 2018 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 2017 Screening Application as a base, questions, response options, interviewer instructions, and menu displays were modified for the 2018 Screening Application. Listed below are the Screening Application changes for 2018:

- The Housing Unit (HU) and Group Quarters Unit (GQU) Screening specifications were revised so that the Spanish-language screen text is listed in blue font just after the English-language screen text. In the screening program, field interviewers (FIs) can toggle between English and Spanish text by pressing the SPAN/ENG menu button.
- The document format was revised to make instructions more specific.
- A field for an apartment number was added on screens where FIs enter or edit addresses to capture an apartment number separately from the street number/name fields.
- In the HU and GQU Screening, the FI instruction to give respondents the study description was revised to be in English only, regardless of whether the screen was viewed in English or Spanish, to be consistent with the English-language format for FI instructions used in other questions.
- In the HU Screening, the MISSED Dwelling Units (DUs) question is now skipped for units on the sampling frame that have been identified as apartments or condos. The question is asked only for regular HUs.
- The Confirm Roster screen Spanish specifications were updated to better reflect the appearance of the Spanish program.
- The Call Distribution was updated to include a Select a Status option.
- “Interview A or B records only” and “ROC code(s)” were removed from the Select a Record of Calls (ROC) Type option in the Call Distribution.
- “All,” “Not at Home,” “Pending,” “Completed,” “Finalized,” “Refusals,” and “Choose ROC code(s)” were added to the Select a Status option in the Call Distribution.
- The View/Sort Preferences menu was updated to include a Segment option.

- “Pending Youth Interviews,” “Pending Cases with Refusal,” “Cases not visited, 2 weeks,” and “Unactivated Cases” were added to the View option within the View/Sort Preferences menu.
- “All Cases” was moved to the top of the View Menu, and “Segment” was removed because it is now a separate option within the View/Sort Preferences menu.
- “All Segments” and “Display List of Segments” were added to the Segment option within the View/Sort Preferences menu.
- “By Interview A Code” and “By Interview B Code” were removed and “By Interview Code” was added to the Sort option within the View/Sort Preferences menu.

2. CAI Questionnaire

Using the 2017 CAI Questionnaire as a base, questions and routing were modified for the 2018 CAI Questionnaire. Listed below are the CAI Questionnaire changes for 2018:

Pain Relievers Main Module

- The definitions of PR30INIT1 and PR30INIT2 were revised because the previous definitions assumed that the respondent's birthday and interview date were both in the current year. These variables were updated to ensure that all respondents who initiated use within the past 30 days are counted as past 30-day initiates. The change focuses on respondents who were interviewed within 30 days of their most recent birthday and who reported their age of first use as their current age. The revised questionnaire now recognizes that some of these respondents could have birthdays in December of the previous year and be interviewed in January of the current year.

Tranquilizers Main Module

- The definitions of TR30INIT1 and TR30INIT2 were revised because the previous definitions assumed that the respondent's birthday and interview date were both in the current year. These variables were updated to ensure that all respondents who initiated use within the past 30 days are counted as past 30-day initiates. The change focuses on respondents who were interviewed within 30 days of their most recent birthday and who reported their age of first use as their current age. The revised questionnaire now recognizes that some of these respondents could have birthdays in December of the previous year and be interviewed in January of the current year.

Stimulants Main Module

- The definitions of ST30INIT1 and ST30INIT2 were revised because the previous definitions assumed that the respondent's birthday and interview date were both in the current year. These variables were updated to ensure that all respondents who initiated use within the past 30 days are counted as past 30-day initiates. The change focuses on respondents who were interviewed within 30 days of their most recent birthday and who reported their age of first use as their current age. The revised

questionnaire now recognizes that some of these respondents could have birthdays in December of the previous year and be interviewed in January of the current year.

Sedatives Main Module

- The definitions of SV30INIT1 and SV30INIT2 were revised because the previous definitions assumed that the respondent's birthday and interview date were both in the current year. These variables were updated to ensure that all respondents who initiated use within the past 30 days are counted as past 30-day initiates. The change focuses on respondents who were interviewed within 30 days of their most recent birthday and who reported their age of first use as their current age. The revised questionnaire now recognizes that some of these respondents could have birthdays in December of the previous year and be interviewed in January of the current year.

Consumption of Alcohol

- Four new questions (CA15, CA16, CA17, and CA18) were added to the end of this module. These questions are for adult respondents only and assess whether all adult respondents think they have ever had a problem with their drug or alcohol use (CA15) or with their mental health (CA17) and whether they consider themselves to be in recovery or to have recovered from a problem with their drug or alcohol use (CA16) or to be in recovery or to have recovered from their mental health problem (CA18).

Market Information for Marijuana

- The Market Information for Marijuana module was added to the instrument between the module for the Consumption of Alcohol and the Back-End Demographics. This module includes the same questions that were last used in the 2014 NSDUH.

Health Insurance

- Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) names were updated to reflect annual state program name changes.

Income

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) names were updated to reflect annual state program name changes.
- The TANF fill for FIPE4 = 17 (Kansas) was revised from “Cash Assistance” to “Cash Assistance or CA” to be consistent with the fill used for other states.

Copies of the 2018 Screener Specifications and CAI Questionnaire can be found in Section 4, Screening Specifications, and Section 5, Questionnaires, in the *2018 NSDUH Methodological Resource Book*.

3. Interviewer Materials

The 2018 interviewer materials and protocols for using those materials were based on the 2017 interviewer materials and protocols. In addition to minor wording revisions and year updates (2017 to 2018), the following changes were made to the 2018 interviewer materials:

- The Quality Control Form included the updated survey year and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) expiration date. The Quality Control Forms were printed on light blue-colored paper.
- The Lead Letter included updated expiration dates in the FI ID badge image, and the National Study Director name was changed from Joel Kennet to Grace Medley. On the Spanish side of the Lead Letter, the text “(disponible solamente en inglés)” was removed to reflect that the NSDUH Respondent Website is available in English and Spanish.
- The Study Description included the updated survey year and OMB expiration date.
- The Q&A Brochure was updated to include contact information for Grace Medley as the National Study Director.
- The RTI/SAMHSA Fact Sheet was updated to include contact information for Grace Medley as the National Study Director and to remove the year reference for the previous NSDUH contract.
- The Doorperson Letter included updated expiration dates in the FI ID badge image, and the National Study Director name was changed from Joel Kennet to Grace Medley.
- The Summary of Questionnaire included the updated survey year.
- The NSDUH Respondent Website was redesigned to feature a mobile-friendly design, along with videos, graphics, quick links, and other content to engage respondents and highlight information on NSDUH. The NSDUH in the News web page was updated with links to recent articles and reports, and a link to the video presentation of the most recent NSDUH press conference was added.
- Two CBHSQ Data Spotlights and one CBHSQ Short Report were added to the interviewer materials for use with respondents:
 - Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2017, January 25). *1.5 million adults have serious mental illness and misused opioids in the past year*. The CBHSQ Report. Retrieved from <https://www.samhsa.gov/>
 - Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2016, July 14). *One-third of young adults with any mental illness received mental health services in the past year*. The CBHSQ Report. Retrieved from <https://www.samhsa.gov/>
 - Lipari, R. N. (2017, October 3). *Exposure to substance use prevention messages among adolescents*. The CBHSQ Report. Retrieved from <https://www.samhsa.gov/>

- The Showcard Booklet underwent several updates for 2018, in addition to updating the survey year:
 - In the Job Aids section, minor wording edits were made throughout. The Missed DUs information was updated to reflect the change in Missed DUs procedures. The Guidelines for Speaking with Neighbors were updated to ensure that neighbors understand that an address, and not a person, was selected for contact. The Procedures After an Automobile Accident was updated to reflect current Headway contact information. Instructions for using the FI Manual on the laptop were updated to reflect the change to HTML format.
- The NSDUH Highlights were updated to reflect the 2016 study results.
- The SAMHSA Authorization letter included the updated survey year, and the National Study Director name was changed from Joel Kennet to Grace Medley. The contact number for the National Study Director was also updated.
- The Interview Incentive Receipt included the updated survey year.

Copies of the 2018 interviewer materials can be found in Section 7, Written Communication, in the *2018 NSDUH Methodological Resource Book*.