

Instrumentation Protocol Changes

The 2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) instrumentation protocols underwent several modifications from the protocols employed for the 2023 NSDUH. A summary of the changes for the 2024 NSDUH can be divided into five topics: (1) the in-person tablet screening application, (2) the web screening instrument, (3) the in-person computer-assisted interviewing (CAI) questionnaire, (4) the web questionnaire, and (5) the interviewer materials.

1. In-Person Screening Application

Using the 2023 in-person screening application as a base, question wording and routing were modified for the 2024 in-person screening application. Listed below are the in-person screening application changes for 2024.

- SR Sex has been revised to include Unknown and Refused options.
- SR Gender has been revised to include Unknown and Refused options.
- SR Hispanic has been revised to include Unknown and Refused options.
- SR Race has been revised to include Unknown and Refused options.
- Gender for all household members has been revised to include Unknown.

2. Web Screening Instrument

Using the 2023 web screening instrument as a base, question wording and routing was modified for the 2024 web screening instrument. All applicable changes from the in-person screening application were applied to the web screening instrument.

3. In-Person CAI Questionnaire

Using the 2023 in-person CAI questionnaire as a base, questions and routing were modified for the 2024 in-person CAI questionnaire. Listed below are the in-person CAI questionnaire changes for 2024.

General Instrument Revision

- In Quarter 2, 2023, some Spanish translations were revised to use Puerto Rican Spanish only for implementation in Puerto Rico.
- The range of acceptable responses for questions about frequency of substance use in the past 30 days was updated from 0 to 30 days to 1 to 30 days. Subsequent consistency check questions for respondents who reported substance use on 0 days were removed because they can no longer be triggered.

Introduction

- The CAI version number will be updated when the programmed instrument is finalized.

Core Demographics

- In Quarter 2, 2023, text was added to REMINDY1 and REMINDY2 to remind interviewers that they may not use a translator during the parental portion of the informed consent process.
- Questions asking detailed information about military service (V2a and V2b) were removed.

Alcohol

- The introduction to the Alcohol module (ALCINTR1) was revised to update and simplify the definition of a drink. “Help” text was also added to show an updated and simplified list of example beverages. CARD3a and ALCINTR2 were removed because they are now redundant.
- ALCC24 and ALCC26 were removed because the value for past 30 day alcohol use can no longer be zero. Logic was updated throughout the questionnaire to reflect this change.
- AL07 was updated to include the newly updated and simplified definition of a drink.

Marijuana

- A question about lifetime marijuana vaping (VPMJLIF) was moved from the Emerging Issues module to the Marijuana module. Routing was updated in this question so that it will be asked of any lifetime marijuana users.

Cocaine

- The introduction text for this module was added to the lifetime use question (CC01) in gray font as a reminder to respondents.
- CCCC14 and CCCC16 were removed because the value for past 30 day cocaine use can no longer be zero. Logic was updated throughout the questionnaire to reflect this change.
- Throughout the module, the phrase “cocaine, in any form” was revised to “any form of cocaine” to be more consistent with questions in other modules.

Crack

- The introduction text for this module was added to the lifetime use question (CK01) in gray font as a reminder to respondents.
- CKCC14 and CKCC16 were removed because the value for past 30 day crack use can no longer be zero. Logic was updated throughout the questionnaire to reflect this change.

Heroin

- The introduction (HEINTRO) was revised to include example forms of heroin and ways of use.

- The introduction text for this module was added to the lifetime use question (HE01) in gray font as a reminder to respondents.
- HECC14 and HECC16 were removed because the value for past 30 day heroin use can no longer be zero. Logic was updated throughout the questionnaire to reflect this change.

Hallucinogens

- The introduction (HALINTRO) was simplified, and the list of substances asked about in this module was removed.
- LSCC14, LSCC16, LSCC79, LSCC80, LSCC88, LSCC89, LSCC97, and LSCC98 were removed because the value for past 30 day hallucinogen use can no longer be zero. Logic was updated throughout the questionnaire to reflect this change.
- A new question asking about recency of psilocybin use (LS36) and subsequent consistency check questions (LSCC111 through LSCC114) were added.

Inhalants

- The introduction (INHINTRO) was simplified, and the list of substances asked about in this module was removed.
- INCC14 and INCC16 were removed because the value for past 30 day inhalant use can no longer be zero. Logic was updated throughout the questionnaire to reflect this change.
- Throughout the module, the phrase “for kicks or to get high” was revised to “for fun or to get high.”

Methamphetamine

- The introduction (METHINTRO) was revised to update example forms of methamphetamine and ways of use.
- The introduction text for this module was added to the lifetime use question (ME01) in gray font as a reminder to respondents.
- MECC14 and MECC16 were removed because the value for past 30 day methamphetamine use can no longer be zero. Logic was updated throughout the questionnaire to reflect this change.

Pain Relievers Screener

- A series of five “OTHER, Specify” questions (PRAOTHA1 through PRAOTHA5) were added after the question about use of any other prescription pain reliever (PRANYOTH) to better measure opioid use.

Definitions for Use in the Substance Use Disorder Module

- The title of this module was updated from “Definitions for Use in the Drugs Module” to “Definitions for Use in the Substance Use Disorder Module.”

- Psilocybin recency (PSIREC) was added to past year use of hallucinogens (HAL12MON). Recency for ketamine, DMT, AMT, and Foxy, and *Salvia divinorum* was updated in the definition of HAL12MON.

Prior Substance Use

- The phrase “for kicks or to get high” was revised to “for fun or to get high” in LU16 through LU16d and subsequent consistency checks (LS33 through LUIN08).

Alcohol and Drug Treatment

- In Quarter 2, 2023, the wording of TXSBIPT and TXSBOPT was revised to clarify that these questions were asking about alcohol and drug treatment only.
- In Quarter 3, 2023, the wording of TXSBSUI and TXSBSUO was revised to provide clearer examples of substances for which a respondent could receive treatment.
- Questions asking which substance or substances a respondent received treatment for were added for respondents who do not endorse at least one substance in TXSBSUI and TXSBSUO.
- A question asking about past year use of overdose reversal medicine (NARCANPY) was added.

Health

- The question about current pregnancy (HLTH02) was updated to be given to respondents up to 50 years old. The previous upper age limit was 44 years old.
- The question asking about duration of current pregnancy (HLTH03) was revised to ask about pregnancy length in weeks rather than months.
- The question asking about sexually transmitted diseases (HLTH24) was removed.
- CALCAGE was updated to CURNTAGE in the logic of HLTH29 and HLTH31 to better reflect the survey program. This was a specification-only change.

Social Environment

- In the perception question about adults trying marijuana or cannabis (sen13b), the three-point scale ranging from “Neither approve nor disapprove” to “Strongly disapprove” was updated to a five-point scale ranging from “Strongly disapprove” to “Strongly approve.”
- The question asking about frequency of religious service attendance (senrelat) was removed.

Youth Experiences

- Throughout this module, three-point scales ranging from “Neither approve nor disapprove” to “Strongly disapprove” were updated to five-point scales ranging from “Strongly disapprove” to “Strongly approve.”
- The question asking about parental limits on time watching television (YE06d) was revised to include parental limits on time with tablets, smartphones, computers, or video games in addition to television.

- The question asking about how the respondent's parents would feel about the respondent smoking one or more packs of cigarettes a day (YE07a) was revised to ask about smoking cigarettes every day.
- The question asking how youth respondents feel about their peers smoking one or more packs of cigarettes a day (YE19a) was revised to ask about smoking cigarettes every day. An introductory phrase was also added to this question.
- Questions about how youth respondents' friends would feel about them doing certain things, like smoking, using marijuana, etc. (YE20a through YE20c), were removed.
- The question asking whether youth respondents have spoken to at least one parent about the dangers of substance use in the past year (YE08) was removed.
- The question asking whether youth respondents have participated in a support group for their own or a family member's substance use in the past year (YE23j) was removed.
- The question asking whether youth respondents have participated in a pregnancy or sexually transmitted disease prevention program in the past year (YE23o) was removed.
- The question asking whether youth respondents had been exposed to any substance use prevention messages outside of school in the past year (YE25) was removed.
- The question asking about frequency of religious service attendance (YERELATT) was removed.
- The General Anxiety Disorder Scale, or GAD-7, was added for youths as seven individual questions (YGAD1 through YGAD7).
- Questions about the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic's impact on suicidality (YCOV9 through YCOV11) were removed.
- In Quarter 2, 2023, the suicide hotline name was updated, and a Puerto Rico-specific number and website were added in YHELP.

Mental Health

- The General Anxiety Disorder Scale, or GAD-7, was added for adults as seven individual questions (AGAD1 through AGAD7).
- Questions about the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on suicidality (COV9 through COV11) were removed.
- In Quarter 2, 2023, the suicide hotline name was updated, and a Puerto Rico-specific number and website were added in AHELP.

Definitions for Use in the Consumption of Alcohol Module

- Psilocybin recency (PSIREC) was added to past month use of hallucinogens (HAL30USE).

Consumption of Alcohol

- The introduction to this module (CAINTR) was revised to include the newly updated and simplified definition of a drink.
- CALCAGE was updated to CURNTAGE in the logic of CA02a, CA02b, and CA03 to better reflect the survey program. This was a specification-only change.

Emerging Issues

- Questions about marijuana vaping (VPMJLIF and VPMJRECa) were removed. A slightly revised lifetime marijuana vaping question was added to the Marijuana module.

Back-End Demographics

- In Quarter 2, 2023, Puerto Rico was added as a response option to QD13a. A subsequent response option was renumbered.
- The question asking in which state the respondent lived 1 year ago today (QD13a) was removed for 2024.
- QD14 through QD16c were revised to specifically include U.S. territories. QD14a was added to capture which state or U.S. territory a respondent was born in.

Employment

- Questions about workplace drug and alcohol use policies and access to workplace education and support (QD43 through QD46) were removed. Routing for subsequent questions was updated to reflect the removal of these questions.
- Questions about workplace drug and alcohol testing and respondent preference for workplace testing (QD49 through QD52) were removed. Routing for subsequent questions was updated to reflect the removal of these questions.

COVID-19

- This module was removed.

Household Roster

- The question asking whether household members who are siblings and are the same age are twins and specifically which kind of twins (TWNTYPE) was removed.

Proxy Information

- The introduction to this module (PROXYINT) was revised to remove an explanation of what this information may be used for.

Health Insurance

- State program names for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program were updated. In Quarter 2, 2023, program names for Puerto Rico were added.

Income

- In Quarter 2, 2023, the routing logic for QI03N was revised so only respondents in the 50 states and Washington, D.C., receive this question.

- State program names for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families were updated. In Quarter 2, 2023, program names for Puerto Rico were added.
- Text on ENDPROXY was revised to include clearer instructions for interviewers.

Verification and Mental Illness Calibration Study

- In Quarter 2, 2023, the selection algorithm for the Mental Illness Calibration Study (MICS) was revised to select only respondents in the 50 states and Washington, D.C.
- Text on TOALLR3I was revised to include clearer instructions for interviewers.
- Recruitment text on RECRQR for the MICS was updated to emphasize the importance of scheduling a follow-up appointment early.

4. Web Questionnaire

Using the 2023 web questionnaire as a base, questions and routing were modified for the 2024 web questionnaire. All applicable changes from the in-person CAI questionnaire were applied to the web questionnaire.

Copies of the 2024 in-person screening application specifications, web screening instrument specifications, in-person CAI questionnaire, and web questionnaire can be found in the Screening Specifications and Questionnaires sections of the 2024 NSDUH Methodological Resource Book.

5. Interviewer Materials

The 2024 interviewer materials and protocols for using these materials were based on the 2023 interviewer materials and protocols. In addition to minor wording revisions and year updates (2023 to 2024), the following changes were made to the 2024 interviewer materials:

- Revised the Interview Incentive Receipt to remove the survey year and the word “cash” when referencing the incentive. Updated the phone number for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and added the contact information and website address for Puerto Rico.
- Revised the Summary of Questionnaire to remove the term “illicit” and updated the Health Insurance and Demographic Information to reflect current interview content.
- Revised the NSDUH Respondent Website content to include 2024 materials. Updated the NSDUH in the News web page with links to recent reports and articles.
- Revised both English and Spanish Showcard Booklets to include the updated survey year. Added headers to the Adult and Youth Introduction and Informed Consent scripts to make it easier to distinguish between the scripts. In the Youth Introduction and Informed Consent script, clarified that a phone number is requested at the end of the interview, not the youth’s phone number.
- Updated the Job Aids to reflect current procedures and text, including the following:
 - Updated the Sampling Process Explanation to remove the number of selected dwelling units and reference to “50 States + DC.”
 - Updated the In-Person Screening and Interview Process to clarify that an adult must be present during a youth interview.

- Updated the In-Person Screening and Interview Tasks to remove equipment cleaning instructions and included reminders to plug in the laptop when possible and to check the laptop date and time for accuracy before beginning an interview. Updated the reference to the Parental Permission script within the Youth Introduction and Informed Consent script.
- Updated the Informed Consent Reference Guide to refer to the Parental Permission script within the Youth Introduction and Informed Consent script. Included text to specify Adult or Youth scripts.
- Updated the Interview Process to reflect current procedures for logging into the laptop. Added reminders to check the laptop date and time for accuracy, and if the battery level is below 30%, to plug in to power. Updated the reference to check boxes on the Interview Incentive Receipt and included reminders on how to assist respondents with severe physical impairments if needed.
- Updated the Refusal Reason “COVID-19 concerns” to “Health Concerns.”
- Added a reminder to the Missed DUs procedures for group quarters structures to check with a knowledgeable person to compare the count of units originally listed with the current situation.
- Updated the NSDUH Highlights to reflect the 2022 study results.
- Updated various materials that include the title of the NSDUH Director of Data Collection (Lead Letter, Doorperson Letter, Certificate of Participation, Data Security Handout, Q&A Brochure, and Refusal/Unable to Contact Letters).
- Revised the SAMHSA Authorization Letter to include the updated survey year.
- Translated the following materials into Spanish:
 - Certificate of Participation
 - Data Security Handout
 - Sorry I Missed You Card
 - Who Uses the Data
- Updated the Screening Q&A Reference Guide to remove the reference to “almost 200,000” addresses being randomly chosen for the study.

Copies of the 2024 interviewer materials can be found in the Written Communication section of the 2024 NSDUH Methodological Resource Book.