

# Instrumentation Protocol Changes

## 1. Introduction

The 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) instrumentation protocols underwent several modifications from the instrumentation protocols employed for the 2008 NSDUH. A summary of the changes for the 2009 NSDUH can be divided into three topics: (1) the computer-assisted interviewing (CAI) screening instrument, (2) the CAI Questionnaire, and (3) the interviewer materials.

### 1.1 Screening Instrument

Using the 2008 Screening Application as a base, the 2009 Screening Application received some text updates and technical enhancements. A new iPAQ was used and therefore some screens appear slightly different. The changes consisted of (1) updating the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) number and expiration date on the Study Introduction and Identify SR (screening respondent) help screens, (2) updating the Call Distribution screen, (3) updating the Other Language and Other Language Specify screens visually, although the content remained consistent, (4) moving the All Military pop-up box to appear on the Verification screen after tapping "Yes" to make the selection, and (5) moving the Interview Call Record Reminder pop-up box on top of the Record of Calls screen upon opening.

The 2009 Screening Application instrument can be found in Section 4, Screening Application, in the *2009 NSDUH Methodological Resource Book*.

### 1.2 CAI Questionnaire

Using the 2008 CAI Questionnaire as a base, questions and routing were modified for the 2009 CAI Questionnaire. Substantive revisions and additions to questions regarding receipt of youth mental health services were made. The adult sample, which had previously been split and administered two mental health scales, received only one scale. For respondents selected into the follow-up Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV (SCID) study, wording of the recruitment screens at the end of the interview was edited.

Listed below are the specific CAI changes made for 2009:

- The CAI instrument version and the OMB expiration date for the main study were updated.
- A split-sample study, embedded within the 2008 NSDUH, compared the levels of serious mental illness measured by the Sheehan Disability Scale (MHAD66a-MHAD68) and an adapted World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule (WHODAS) (LIKERT-LIAD68). The adapted WHODAS was retained in the 2009 NSDUH and will be used for future NSDUHs. The questions comprising the Sheehan Disability Scale have been deleted.

- The recode of the LIWKQUIC variable was expanded to include respondents who skipped the item based upon a response to LIWKRES1.
- A total of seven variables (YSU25-YSU29) were deleted from the module. These variables captured receipt of special education services and school counseling, as well as whether the youth has ever been in jail or foster care.
- A total of nine variables (YSU30-YSU36) were added to the module. The new variables measured constructs related to receipt of mental health services in the education and justice system sectors.
- State program names for Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) were updated.
- The wording of screens at the end of the interview that recruit selected respondents into the follow-up SCID study was changed. Specifically, variables RECRUIT1, REFFEAS, RECRUIT2, RECRUIT3, and THANKR2 were changed.

The complete 2009 CAI Questionnaire, with all updated or additional questions and modules highlighted, can be found in Section 5, Questionnaires, in the *2009 NSDUH Methodological Resource Book*.

### **1.3 Interviewer Materials**

The 2009 interviewer materials and protocols for using those materials were based on the 2008 interviewer materials and protocols. In addition to minor wording revisions and year updates (2008 to 2009), the following changes were made for the 2009 interviewer materials:

- Quality Control Forms and Reference Date Calendars were printed on peach-colored paper in 2009.
- The NSDUH Respondent website layout was reformatted to make it more user-friendly and visually appealing to respondents and others who visit the site. In addition, the content was updated to be more respondent specific and include additional links to information on NSDUH.
- The Who Uses the Data handout was updated to replace the Department of Agriculture entry with the U.S. Department of Education as a data user. Information on the Department of Transportation was updated to describe how NSDUH data are used by the department.
- *The NSDUH Report: Quantity and Frequency of Alcohol Use among Underage Drinkers* (Office of Applied Studies, 2008) and *The NSDUH Report: Nonmedical Use of Pain Relievers in Substate Regions: 2004 to 2006* (Office of Applied Studies, 2008) were added to the interviewer materials for use with respondents.
- The Showcard Booklet underwent a few updates for 2009:
  - The pill cards were updated to show the most recent images and dosages of Percocet, OxyContin, Tramadol, Clonazepam, Xanax, Soma, and Dextroamphetamine.

- The Instructions for Using the Certificate of Participation, found within the Job Aids portion of the booklet, was updated to include text stressing that the certificate should be used primarily with youth respondents and that credit for participation is not guaranteed.
- The Equipment Maintenance Checklist found within the Job Aids portion of the booklet was updated to reflect the procedures for the computer equipment.
- The Newspaper Article handout was updated with two *USA Today* articles on NSDUH. The articles featured results from the 2007 NSDUH and discussed drug use among teenagers and young adults, as well as baby boomers and older adults.
- The RTI/SAMHSA Fact Sheet was updated with more current information on SAMHSA and RTI.
- Revisions to the NSDUH Highlights included the following:
  - Text was updated to reflect the 2007 study results.
  - The table on the back was updated with information on illicit drug use among persons aged 12 or older from the 2002–2007 surveys.
- The FI Ideas Booklet was updated to include additional ideas and strategies to help interviewers answer respondent questions and to address refusals or other challenging situations.
- The NSDUH Job Description was updated to reflect that interviewers should be available to work 20 to 25 non-travel hours each week during data collection and to specify the days that are included as part of the weekend hours.
- The ePTE Working Copy was updated with the 2009 project number.

Copies of the 2009 interviewer materials can be found in Section 7, Written Communication, in the *2009 NSDUH Methodological Resource Book*.

## References

Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2008, March 31). Quantity and Frequency of Alcohol Use among Underage Drinkers. *The NSDUH Report*. [Available at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov>]

Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2008, June 19). Nonmedical Use of Pain Relievers in Substate Regions: 2004 to 2006. *The NSDUH Report*. [Available at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov>]