

Thank you very much for your interest in the 2012/2013 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. We appreciate your use of the data and understand the need for collecting LLC and other cigar data separately as outlined in your comment. Unfortunately, your suggestions for amendments would result in changes to a "core" section of the questionnaire. The core consists of a set of question modules that are kept constant from one year to the next so that comparable data can be captured over time.

Measurement of trends in the NSDUH is critical to understanding the progress made in the effort to reduce the use of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs in the U.S. Any changes in the core questions have the potential to change the level of reporting, and therefore cause a break in trends. In addition, question modifications may cause "context effects" where even minor variations in question wording, question format, or question order can strongly influence the answers to subsequent questions. Hence, changes in the tobacco module have the potential to affect responses in other modules as well. Thus, unless there is a significant error, modifications to these sections of the questionnaire are usually not approved.