

PATH Youth Cognitive Interview Protocol

Introduction

Thank you for agreeing to help us out today. My name is _____ and I work for Westat, a survey research company in Rockville, Maryland. Let me explain what we're going to do here today. Westat is working to develop survey questions for the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health study, which is sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration. In the study, an interview will be done with youth ranging in age from 12 to 17. We are interested in your reactions to some of the questions that were developed—what they mean to you, and perhaps some ideas about how we can improve them. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions we will be talking about today. I am just interested in your thoughts and reactions to these questions. Your thoughts on these questions will help us improve them.

Informed Consent

Before we get started there are a few things I should mention. This is a research project, and your participation is voluntary. If you prefer not to answer any questions just say so and we'll go on to the next one. It's also okay if you change your mind after starting and would rather not participate.

All your answers, everything you say, will be kept confidential. We will not share your responses with your parents, your school or authorities. We will not use your name in any reports. The interview will take about an hour and you will receive \$25 for your assistance today. We will also need to audio record our conversation. This helps me so I can listen to what you are saying and won't have to take a lot of detailed notes while you are talking; it will also help when we write up a summary of this interview. Only project staff will have access to the recording (it will be stored on a secure network drive) and we'll destroy after the study is completed. At the same time, we will also destroy the electronic record of your responses and any identifying information. **[IF OBSERVERS]** Finally, some of the researchers developing the questions are here today observing our interview to learn if there are things that might need to be changed.

[HAND ASSENT FORMS TO RESPONDENT AND CONSENT FORM TO PARENT] This form contains all of the things I just told you about your rights in this interview. Please read it over and sign it if you are willing to take part in the study.

[HAVE R SIGN TWO CONSENT FORMS, KEEP ONE AND RETURN ONE TO I'ER.]

[EXCUSE PARENT FROM ROOM AT THIS TIME. THE INTERVIEW SHOULD BE CONDUCTED WITH THE YOUTH ONLY]

[TURN ON RECORDER.] Today is _____. Now that the recorder is running, let me ask again; is it okay with you if we record this interview.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 56 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: NIH, Project Clearance Branch, 6705 Rockledge Drive, MSC 7974, Bethesda, MD 20892-7974, ATTN: PRA (0925-0675). Do not return the completed form to this address.