

2023-2026 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health: Methodological Field Tests

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

1. Respondent Universe and Sampling Methods

Conducting field tests includes a variety of methods and approaches. The methods chosen for use depend on the subject tested, as well as their intended target population. Recommended methodologies and sample sizes will be based on a review of the relevant literature and consultation with experts in the field. As the methodologies and sample sizes for each field test are determined, they will be detailed in submissions sent to OMB for expedited review. However, there are some generalities about the universes and how we will sample them based on whether the proposed collection uses qualitative or quantitative methodologies.

- a) **Qualitative Collections.** While survey research employs a deductive, quantitative methodology and relies on a relatively large population-based probability sample to support statistical inference and representativeness, methods such as cognitive interviewing employs an inductive, qualitative methodology and generally relies upon a relatively small sample. Unlike survey research, the primary objective of the qualitative methods the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) employs is not to produce statistical data that can be generalized to an entire population. Rather, their objective is to provide an in-depth exploration of particular concepts, processes and/or patterns of interpretation. Samples used for qualitative research generally do not achieve full inclusivity of all social and demographic groups. As a general rule, sample definitions are based upon the content of the survey, as well as the purpose and objectives of the particular study. For example, NSDUH has conducted cognitive interviews with 30-60 respondents at a time recruited to evaluate question wording and response options from:
 - respondents in drug treatment in the past 2 years to evaluate extensive questions about drug treatment
 - respondents diagnosed with depression to evaluate a depression screener and module
 - respondents who currently drink alcohol to evaluate substance use disorder questions for alcohol.
- b) **Quantitative Collections.** In the instances when NSDUH conducts field tests/pilot tests, non-purposive sampling methods will normally be used. Again, the universe for these studies will depend on the overall research purpose, but will tend to be geographically larger than those used in the qualitative studies. Sampling will also depend on the specific project.

2. Information Collection Procedures

Information collection procedures will be different for each methodological test, but will generally involve one of the three major methods outlined in section A2 (focus groups, cognitive testing, field tests) and will be included in the materials for each expedited review.

3. Methods to Maximize Response Rates

Consistent with survey methodology, the design of each field test will include approaches to maximize response rates, while retaining the voluntary nature of the effort. If CBHSQ proposes to offer incentives to respondents to offset their costs of participation (and thereby reduce differential nonresponse), appropriate justification will be provided. These details will be included in the materials for expedited review.

4. Tests of Procedures

The activities to be conducted under this approval are in themselves tests of procedures. Interview guides and questionnaires to be used in the field tests will be carefully developed, scrutinized and limited informal testing to assure completeness and smooth flow.

5. Statistical Consultants

Statistical experts reviewing portions of prior NSDUH designs include William Kalsbeek, PhD, University of North Carolina; Robert Groves, PhD, Georgetown University; and Michael Hidioglou, PhD, Statistics Canada. Monroe Sirken, PhD, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) (retired); Arthur Hughes, CBHSQ, SAMHSA (retired); James Massey, PhD, (deceased) (NCHS); Douglas Wright, CBHSQ, SAMHSA (retired); Joseph Gfroerer, CBHSQ, SAMHSA (retired); and Jonaki Bose, CBHSQ, SAMHSA (currently with NCHS) were consulted on survey design. Rong Cai, CBHSQ, SAMHSA is the primary mathematical statistician, (240) 276-1288. RTI International statisticians contributing to the design are Dr. Rachel Harter, Director of Sampling and Statistical Operations, Dr. Akhil Vaish, Director of Small Area Estimation, and Dr. Douglas Currivan, Director of Methods and Redesign Activities.

Attachments

Attachment A. Confidentiality Agreement
Attachment B. Data Collection Agreement