Handouts for Measuring Prescription Drug Misuse in the National Survey on Drug Use and Health

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The views expressed in this presentation do not necessarily reflect the official position or policies of SAMHSA or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.
Supplemental Information
Drug groups above the thick red line (in color) are asked separately.

Drug groups below the thick red line (in color) are asked in tandem with follow-up to identify which one(s) were misused.

Any other drugs in the category are specified by “write-in.”

*Actual size is 8.5 x 11 inches.
Example Pain Reliever Question in the Current NSDUH Instrument

Please look at the pain relievers shown in Box 3.

Have you ever, even once, used Vicodin, Lortab, or Lorcet that was not prescribed for you or that you took only for the experience or feeling it caused?

1. Yes
2. No
Focus Group Recruitment and Data Collection: April 2009

- Substance abuse treatment providers (n=9)
- Raleigh-Durham, NC area
- Mix by gender, certifications, treatment of adults or adolescents
- 90-minute focus group conducted at RTI office in NC
- Moderator and note taker
- Group recorded and observed with participant permission
- $100 honorarium to participants
Focus Group Participant Characteristics

Gender

- Male: 3
- Female: 6

Main Caseload

- Adults: 1
- Adolescents: 3
- Mixed (65% Adults): 5

Credentials

- CSAC: 3
- LCAS - Provisional: 5
- LCAS: 1

Program Type

- Privately Funded: 2
- Publicly Funded: 4
- Private Practice: 3

CSAC = Certified Substance Abuse Counselor
LCAS = Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist
Usability Recruitment and Data Collection: October 2009

- Adult participants (n=8) from Craigslist within 50 miles of RTI
- 5-minute telephone screening interview
  - Demographics
  - Past year use of prescription pain relievers or stimulants
  - Experience with computers
- Interview at RTI: Up to 90 minutes allowed but typically about 1 hour
- Randomized question wordings
- Randomized placement of electronic pill images above or below text
- Hypothetical scenarios: Respondents instructed to answer “as if” they were the person in the scenario
- Feedback sought on preferences for wordings/layouts, any difficulties
- $60 gift card for completing interview
Usability Question Versions for Misuse

- Please look at the pictures of the pain relievers shown [above/below]. In the past 12 months, have you used any of these pain relievers in [either/any] of these ways?

- Two criterion wording
  - Without a prescription of your own, or
  - Just for the effect it had on you — not for its intended medical use.

- Three-criterion wording
  - Without a prescription of your own,
  - In greater amounts, more often, or longer than you were told to take it, or
  - Just for the effect it had on you — not for its intended medical use.
Usability Question Versions for Misuse

Please look at the pictures of the pain relievers shown above. In the past 12 months, have you used any of these pain relievers in any of these ways?

- Without a prescription of your own,
- In greater amounts, more often, or longer than you were told to take it, or
- Just for the effect it has on you - not for its intended medical use

Which of these pain relievers did you use in the past 12 months in any of these ways?

To select more than one drug from the list, press the space bar between each number you have typed. When you have finished, press [ENTER].

1. Vicodin
2. Lortab
3. Loracet
4. Hydrocodone
Usability Participant Characteristics

**Gender**
- Male: 4
- Female: 4

**Age**
- 26 to 34: 3
- 35 to 49: 4
- 50 or Older: 1

**Education**
- High School or Less: 2
- Beyond High School: 6

**Rx Drugs, Past 12 Months**
- Pain Relievers: 2
- Stimulants: 1
- Neither: 5
Usability Participant Experience with Computers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Computer Use at Home/For Personal Use*</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Use at Work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometimes but Not Every Day</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every Day but Not All Day</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Work is On a Computer</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All participants recruited online from Craigslist
Additional Usability Testing Highlights

- No major usability issues identified
- Screen layouts were acceptable
  - “Easy to read and understand”
  - “Pictures are helpful, colorful”
  - “So-so”
- No strong preference for image placement relative to text
  - “The placement of pictures is irrelevant.”
  - “Images underneath seem to flow better.”
- No strong preferences for wordings for misuse, but some comments about three-criterion wording
  - Three criterion wording gave more examples
  - Three criterion wording made participant think more
Cognitive Interview Recruitment and Data Collection: 2011 and 2012

- Participants in two “phases” (n=40 in each)
  - Three rounds of interviews in Phase 1; two rounds in Phase 2
  - Chicago, DC, and NC

- Phase 1 (source of findings in presentation)
  - Adults in Round 1; adults and 12-17 year olds otherwise
  - General population participants recruited from Craigslist or flyers
  - Substance abuse treatment clients recruited from flyers in programs

- Phase 2: Adults and adolescents, general population

- 5-minute telephone screening interview

- 1-hour semi-structured interview
  - Phase 1: Focus on pain relievers and stimulants
  - Phase 2: Focus on other sections of interview but continued testing for pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives
Cognitive Interview Recruitment and Data Collection (continued)

- Permission/consent/assent procedures
  - Signed parental permission required for adolescents
  - Confidentiality assurances provided, including Federal statutory authority
    - Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA), Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107–347
  - Recording/observation by SAMHSA study team member with respondent permission
- Up to 1 hour allowed for introduction, consent/assent, interview, and closeout
- $40 for adults; $30 for adolescents (gift cards) upon interview completion
Cognitive Interview Example Probes

- **Use of pictures to identify drugs**
  - Did you use the pictures on this screen to come up with your answer? (How did you use the pictures?)
  - Thinking about all these questions you just answered about pain relievers/stimulants, which was more helpful to you when answering these questions, the pictures or the drug names?

- **Distinguishing between use as directed and misuse**
  - What do you think we are trying to get at when we ask this question (i.e., use in a way a doctor did not direct you to use it)?
  - Could you tell me some more about the last time you used this pill? (How were you using it in a way a doctor didn't direct you to?)
  - Have you taken this drug using a prescription? Tell me about your use of it when you were taking the prescription. [PROBE FOR FALSE NEGATIVES.]

- **Identifying how participants misused prescription drugs**
  - How did you choose your answer? Why?
For More Information

- Slides for the presentation available through the online program for the 2009 Annual Meeting at [www.apha.org](http://www.apha.org)

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