



Methodological Considerations for Interviewing Teens

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Outline

- Background
- Recruitment
- Scheduling and logistics
- Consent
- Confidentiality
- Interview protocol



Background

Recent NCHS Studies with teens

- Disability
 - For the Washington Group/UNICEF
 - to determine whether to ask questions on teen disability to teens or to their parents
- Alcohol and Marijuana use
 - For the Youth Risk Behavior Survey
 - To refine questions



Difficulties interviewing teens

- More expensive
- Hard to recruit
- Can be difficult to get teens to talk



Reasons to interview teens

- Content area relevant to teens
- Survey instrument intended for teens
- To compare teens and adults



Recruitment

Recruitment

- Recruiting teens is difficult!
- Gate keepers
- Must screen both parent and teen
- Incentives work



Recruitment

- Alternative recruiting strategies are key
 - Topic focused organizations
 - Schools
 - Libraries and youth centers
 - Word of mouth
 - Peer networks

Participants Wanted for Research Study

The National Center for Health Statistics is looking for teens in grades 9-12 (aged 15-18) who have used alcohol or marijuana. The survey research interview will be no longer than 60 minutes and participants will receive \$40.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
Call [fill name] at: **301-458-[fill XXXX]**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics



Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
National Center for
Health Statistics

Scheduling and Logistics

Scheduling

- Scheduling is difficult!
- Must work with teens schedule
- Must coordinate with interviewers
- Must coordinate with parents
- Evening and weekend hours often best
- Higher rates of no-shows and reschedules



Logistics

- Secure building
- ID required
- Must be US citizen



Consent

Consent

- Minors are a protected class
- By law, minors can't consent
- Must get parental consent

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Please Read and Sign Below if You Agree

- I freely choose to take part in this research study.
- I allow NCHS to audio record my interview. I also allow NCHS to play my audio recording to other people working on this project either in the CCQDER or in another location under the direct supervision of CCQDER staff.
- I do not allow NCHS to record my interview.

Participant Signature

Print name

Date

Consent

- If respondent is under 18
 - Require signed parental consent
 - Mailed in advance
 - In sealed envelope + phone call
 - Teen assent
- If 18 or over
 - Signed consent
 - No parental consent needed



Confidentiality

Confidentiality

- Teens are not video recorded
- Audio is requested
- No “special consent”
- “Restricted Status” for storage purposes



Interviewing Protocol

Teen not saying much: Teen disability

Interviewer: So you said you have some difficulty seeing. Why did you say “some difficulty?”

Teen: Sometimes I’m too far to see things far away.

Interviewer: What type of thing?

Teen: Like a stop sign.

Interviewer: With your glasses on? You have a hard time seeing far away?

Teen: Yeah.

Interviewer: Is that all the time?

Teen: Yeah.

Interviewer: What about up close?

Teen: No problem.

Teen more forthcoming: Teen alcohol and marijuana

Interviewer: You said 70 days. Is that your estimate.

Teen: Yeah. I guess. It's hard to put a number on it. Over someone's life it would be hard to put it into days. I would say months. Or maybe how many days do you drink in a year. But since you asked for a number, I'll say 70.

Interviewer: So you said you were 14 when you first started drinking.

Teen: I was thirteen. It wasn't heavily. It was the first time.

Interviewer: Oh ok. Can you tell me about that. Was it at a party?

Teen: I was in Europe with my parents. And it was Spain so I could drink wine and brandy. It wasn't social. After that my parents were less strict about alcohol. I can have a glass of wine or whatever. We're not religious so we've never done any religious drinking. They don't mind when I drink with my friends as long as it's mellow.

Interviewer: So when did you start drinking with your friends?

Freshman year of high school. I think I was 15. yeah. It might have been 8th grade. I don't remember exactly when. It was probably the end of 8th grade. I probably drink once or twice a weekend. It's usually the same group of friends. We'll have a party or go to a friends house. When it's nice we go outside, but now it's winter so we go inside. Where ever is available. Where ever we can find a space. We hang out and do stuff while we drink. There's beer pong. We'll play music and talk or if there's other games like a pool table we'll do that but mostly social stuff. It's always social and hanging out. Not like we're just getting wasted or sitting in our rooms drinking by ourselves.

Interviewing recommendations

- Establish rapport
- Explain purpose
- Begin by asking general information
- Make connections
- Seem interested
- Leave space





<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/CCQDER/>

Reports available on Qbank: <https://www.cdc.gov/qbank>

For more information please contact Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30333
Telephone: 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)/TTY: 1-888-232-6348
Visit: www.cdc.gov | Contact CDC at: 1-800-CDC-INFO or www.cdc.gov/info

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.