

Exploration



- Clear set of research purposes
- Knowledge of work on the problem that has already been conducted
- Innovative notions of how a survey could shed some new light

Experts and Insiders



- New experts can help
- Questions must seem fair to people of widely different viewpoints
- In depth interviews with members of the target population
- Focus groups
 - Of special value when a target population is likely to have special perceptions, problems, and idioms

Pretesting



- Even tried and true questions should be pretested
 - Language constantly changes
 - Meaning of questions can be affected by neighboring questions
- “Participating” in a pretest—“intensive” design
- “undeclared” pretest—“extensive” design
- Best strategy: begin with participating and move on to undeclared

Purposes of Pretesting

- Testing questions
 - Variation in responding—very skewed distributions
 - Meaning—most important purpose of pretesting
 - Investigators vs. respondents
 - Too difficult items are reinterpreted and transformed by respondents
 - Task difficulty
 - Respondent interest and attention
 - Length
 - Format variation (costs and benefits)
 - Important for topics that aren't too appealing

Purposes of Pretesting

- Testing the questionnaire
 - Flow and naturalness
 - Listen over and over, try to hear as respondents do
 - Interest, clarity, sensible arrangement
 - Order—put background questions up front (easy and not too sensitive)
 - “hook” the respondent at the beginning with interesting questions
 - Skip patterns
 - Have sophisticated but uninformed people look for logical errors
 - Strong outlines, lines, outlines, boxy boxes, no fine print, no extraneous instructions
 - Timing—scant hour for face-to-face, shorter for telephone

Thank you very much for your willingness to participate in what we believe is a very important study. I want to remind you that your answers will be kept completely confidential. Your name will not appear anywhere in this computer and the list that connects your name with this material will be kept in a locked file maintained by the principal investigator. Not even our own research staff will ever be aware of whose answers they are processing.

SECTION A - DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

A1. INDICATE RESPONDENT'S GENDER 1 male 2 female

A2. How old are you? _____

A3. Where were you born?

1. U.S. → **GO TO A5**

2. Cuba
3. Colombia
4. Mexico
5. Dominican Republic
6. Nicaragua
7. Puerto Rico
8. Guatemala
9. El Salvador
10. Other _____
(specify)

A4. How many years have you been living in the United States? _____

A5. Turn to page 1 in your response booklet. With which of the groups shown do you most closely identify?

1. Non-Hispanic White
2. Hispanic White
3. Hispanic Black
4. African-American
5. Other _____
(specify)

A6. What is the highest grade you completed? _____

1. 6th grade
2. 7th grade
3. 8th grade
4. 9th grade
5. 10th grade
6. 11th grade
7. 12th grade
8. Other _____

INTERVIEWER CHECKPOINT

IF COMPLETED GRADE 12 OR HIGHER → GO TO A10

IF COMPLETED LESS THAN GRADE 12

A7. How old were you when you stopped going to school during the day? _____

A8. Page 2 in your response booklet lists possible reasons for not graduating. Does one or more of these describe why you didn't graduate high school?

1. To go to work.
2. To help support the family.
3. Got bored, did not get anything out of it.
4. Saw no future in it.
5. Did not get along with other students.
6. Did not get along with teachers.
7. I was pregnant or became a father/mother.
8. Many of my friends had dropped out.
9. I did not feel safe at school.
10. Take care of ill/disabled family member.
11. Got in trouble with the law.
12. Had a drug or alcohol problem.
13. Was getting poor grades/failing.
14. Left the area.
15. Was expelled.
16. Other reason _____

INTERVIEWER CHECKPOINT

IF ANSWERED WAS EXPELLED

ALL OTHERS → GO TO A10

A9. What was the major reason you were expelled?

1. Fighting in school
2. Selling drugs
3. Using drugs
4. Bringing a weapon to school
5. Excessive truancy (skipping school)
6. Other _____

A10. Do you plan to continue your education?

1. YES 5. NO → GO TO A14

A11. What are your educational plans?

SECTION F - LIFETIME SUBSTANCE USE

This part of the interview asks about your use of alcohol and drugs over your whole life, including now. It is important for us to get accurate information. In order to do this, please think carefully before answering the following questions. Remember, your answers are completely confidential.

	YES	NO
F1. Have you ever smoked more than 10 cigarettes in a single day?		
F2. Page 13 in your response booklet lists various sedatives, including barbiturates and sleeping pills, that are sometimes called "downers." People sometimes take sedatives to help them go to sleep or to stay calm during the day. Have you ever tried anything like this?		
F3. The next page (RB 14) lists various amphetamines and other stimulants which are also called "uppers" or "speed." People sometimes take stimulants to help them lose weight, stay awake or to raise their spirits. Have you ever tried anything like this?		
F4. Now I'm going to ask you about analgesics, which are taken as pain killers, although people sometimes use them for other reasons. Page 15 in your response booklet lists various analgesics. Have you ever tried anything like this?		
F5. Now I'm going to ask you about tranquilizers. Please turn to page 16 in your response booklet. This is a list of various tranquilizers. Have you ever tried anything like this?		
F6. The next page in your booklet (RB 17) lists inhalants that people sometimes sniff, inhale or "huff" to get high or make them feel better. Have you ever tried anything like this?		
F7. Have you ever tried marijuana or hashish?		
F8. Have you ever tried powder cocaine?		
F9. Have you ever tried crack cocaine?		
F10. Have you ever tried hallucinogens (LSD, PCP/angel dust, psycote/mushrooms, Ketamine/Special K)?		
F11. Have you ever tried heroin?		

Please turn to response book page 18.

F12. How many times (if any) have you chewed tobacco? (IF NECESSARY: By times, we mean separate occasions on which you were under the influence of the drug.)

1. none	2. 1-2 times	3. 3-5 times	4. 6-9 times	5. 10-19 times	6. 20-39 times	7. 40 or more times
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F13. How many times (if any) have you injected drugs?

1. none	2. 1-2 times	3. 3-5 times	4. 6-9 times	5. 10-19 times	6. 20-39 times	7. 40 or more times
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F14. How many times (if any) have you used Rohypnol (roofies)?

1. none	2. 1-2 times	3. 3-5 times	4. 6-9 times	5. 10-19 times	6. 20-39 times	7. 40 or more times
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F15. How many times (if any) have you used designer drugs like ecstasy or MDMA?

1. none	2. 1-2 times	3. 3-5 times	4. 6-9 times	5. 10-19 times	6. 20-39 times	7. 40 or more times
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F16. How many times (if any) have you used ketamine (special K)?

1. none	2. 1-2 times	3. 3-5 times	4. 6-9 times	5. 10-19 times	6. 20-39 times	7. 40 or more times
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F17. Next are a few questions about use of alcoholic beverages. In your lifetime, have you ever had more than just a sip of beer, wine or liquor?

1. YES

5. NO

→ TURN TO PAGE 22

F17_FU. About how old were you the ~~very~~ first time you had more than just a sip of beer, wine or liquor?

_____ YEARS OLD

0. DONT KNOW

F17a. In any one year period of your entire life, did you have at least 12 drinks of any kind of alcoholic beverage?

1. YES

5. NO

→ TURN TO PAGE 22

CIRCLE 'A. ALCOHOL' ON SUBSTANCE LIST CARD F2

F17b. (RE, P. 19) (READ SLOWLY) Think about the past 12 months. What is the largest number of drinks you had on any single day during that period? Count drinks as shown on Page 19 of your booklet.

_____ # OF DRINKS IN A DAY

00. ZERO

→ TURN TO F17h

INTERVIEWER CHECKPOINT

SEE F17b

1. 20 OR MORE DRINKS IN F17b-->NEXT PAGE, F17c
2. 10-19 DRINKS IN F17b-->NEXT PAGE, F17d
3. 5-9 DRINKS IN F17b-->NEXT PAGE, F17e
4. 3-4 DRINKS IN F17b -->NEXT PAGE, F17f
5. 1-2 DRINKS IN F17b-->NEXT PAGE, F17g

(RE, P. 19) RESPONSE OPTIONS FOR F17c-F17g

- A. NEARLY EVERY DAY (01)
 B. 3-4 TIMES A WEEK (02)
 C. 1-2 TIMES A WEEK (03)
 D. 1-3 TIMES A MONTH (04)
 E. 7-11 TIMES IN YEAR (06)
 F. 3-6 TIMES IN YEAR (06)
 G. 2 TIMES IN YEAR (07)
 H. 1 TIME IN YEAR (08)
 J. NEVER (09)

F17c. (RE, STILL ON P.19) How often did you have ~~twenty or more~~ drinks in a single day during the past twelve months? Just give me the letter from the list on Page 19.

A (01)	B (02)	C (03)	D (04)	E (05)	F (06)	G (07)	H (08)	J (09)
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NEXT PAGE,
F17h

F17d. (RE, STILL ON P. 19) How often did you have ~~between ten and nineteen~~ drinks in a single day during the past 12 months? (Just give me the letter from the list on Page 19)

A (01)	B (02)	C (03)	D (04)	E (05)	F (06)	G (07)	H (08)	J (09)
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NEXT PAGE,
F17h

F17e. (RE, STILL ON P.19) How often did you have ~~between five and nine~~ drinks in a single day during the past 12 months? (Just give me the letter from the list on Page 19)

A (01)	B (02)	C (03)	D (04)	E (05)	F (06)	G (07)	H (08)	J (09)
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NEXT PAGE,
F17h

F17f. (RE, STILL ON P.19) How often did you have ~~three or four~~ drinks in a single day during the past 12 months? (Just give me the letter from the list on Page 19.)

A (01)	B (02)	C (03)	D (04)	E (05)	F (06)	G (07)	H (08)	J (09)
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NEXT PAGE,
F17h

F17g. (RE, STILL ON P.19) How often did you have ~~one or two~~ drinks in a single day during the past 12 months? (Just give me the letter from the list on Page 19.)

A (01)	B (02)	C (03)	D (04)	E (05)	F (06)	G (07)	H (08)	J (09)
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Phases of Pretesting



- “qualitative” stage—small n’s
- For a new study, a minimum of two pretests is recommended
 - Developmental pretest I
 - Evaluation
 - Polishing pretest II

Developmental Pretest I

- Most questions should be closed
 - Human experience is diverse, so you may not have included all options
 - Repairs to closed questions
 - Options to accommodate almost everyone
 - Cost-benefit/efficiency
 - Open-ended probes to ensure valid meaning and choices
- Rough codes for open questions should be designed in advance
- Should be less than twice than final expected length
- Respondents should resemble the target population
- N of 25-75 is reasonable (closer to 25 with more professional interviewers, closer to 75 with students)
- Best of professional staff vs. the full range of talent for the interviewers?
- Investigators should participate in the interviewing

Evaluating pretests

- Copious comments written in the margins
- Oral debriefing immediately after the pretest
- Written comments, shared across interviewers
- Questionnaire for interviewers (e.g., did you have to repeat any questions?)
- Field observations from observer not administering the pretest
- Coding of responses, and preparation of marginal frequencies

Pretest II: the polishing pretest

- “dress rehearsal”
- Cutting, trimming, splicing, rearranging, filling in new skip patterns, formatting for clarity
- Ask outsiders to criticize before you go into the field
- Keep the barrier high to any new questions
- The art of survey analysis is more like architecture than like sculpture or painting