

**WOMEN'S INTERAGENCY HIV STUDY
QUESTION BY QUESTION SPECIFICATIONS
FORM 24BEH: ALCOHOL, DRUG USE, AND SEXUAL BEHAVIOR**

The *Alcohol, Drug Use and Sexual Behavior Form* will obtain information about the participant's cigarette, alcohol and drug use history and sexual behaviors since her (MONTH) study visit. The WIHS is a study about HIV disease progression in women and as such does not collect information on *how* the participant became HIV infected. Rather, the focus in collecting data in *Form 24BEH* is to determine the impact of various risk factors/covariates on *HIV progression* in women. *Form 24* was used at follow-up visits through visit 24. The form had undergone extensive revisions and the excessive number of unused questions was causing programming problems. At visit 25, *F24* was converted to *F24BEH* and uses only active questions.

General Instructions:

1. Some questions in this form ask the participant to provide a specific number, such as how many cigarettes she smoked or how many sexual partners she had. If the participant has difficulty giving a specific number, the interviewer should probe: "What is your best guess/estimate?" If the participant provides a range (for example, "20 to 30 cigarettes"), the interviewer should probe in such a way as to help the participant narrow it down (e.g., "within that range, which number comes closest?"). If after probing the participant is still unable to narrow down the response to one number, then record the lowest number in the range.

These probes and coding conventions should be used throughout *F24BEH* for any questions asking for a specific number.

2. All dates should be recorded in the MM/DD/YY format unless otherwise noted. For dates that must be completed on the form, if the participant cannot remember the exact month (or day), probe for the season. Use "15" for the day if the specific day cannot be recorded. Probe for the season and assign the month as follows:

Summer	=	July	=	07
Fall	=	October	=	10
Winter	=	January	=	01
Spring	=	April	=	04

Interviewers should have available an appropriate calendar to aid the participant in determining dates. Years in response to questions inquiring about occurrences "since last visit" should be 1995 and thereafter.

3. Times should be recorded in HH:MM format. Remember to use leading zeros, e.g., 08:00.
4. For questions containing an open-ended specify box linked to the response "other," interviewers should print responses exactly in the words of the respondent.
5. Obtain the date of the participant's previous visit from the *Visit Control Sheet (VCS)*. This month should be used in the questions wherever (MONTH) appears.

SECTION B: CIGARETTE AND ALCOHOL USE

- B0. We want to learn about the participant's smoking history as it relates to her general health status and HIV progression. If the participant reports that she has never smoked in **Question B0**, skip to **Question B5**.
 - a. If the participant reports a history of smoking, we want to learn the percentage of time that she smoked menthol cigarettes. If the participant isn't sure how to calculate percentage of time that she smoked menthol cigarettes, the interviewer can provide further probing. For example, if she smoked menthol cigarettes all the time for two years, and then not at all for

six years, she would have smoked menthol cigarettes for approximately 25% of the time. If she smoked menthol cigarettes all the time for two years, half the time for two years, and then not at all for two years, she would have smoked menthol cigarettes for approximately 50% of the time.

- B1. When reading this question, insert the date of the participant's last visit that you recorded at **Question A6**. Women who have not smoked since their (MONTH) study visit will skip **Questions B2** through **B4**. If the participant has not smoked, skip to **Question B5**.
- B2. If the participant has NOT quit smoking since her (MONTH) study visit, skip to **Question B4**.
- Record the month and the year when the participant quit smoking cigarettes. If she quit several times, probe for the most recent time she quit. Interviewers should have a calendar available to aid the participant in determining the date she quit smoking cigarettes.
 - For each method of smoking cessation help listed, record "YES" if the participant used the method; "NO" if the participant didn't.
 - Record the month and year (since her (MONTH) study visit) in which the participant resumed smoking after having quit. Interviewers should have a calendar available to aid the participant in determining the date she resumed smoking cigarettes. Interviewers should always skip to **Question B4** after completing this question.
- B3. Record the average number of cigarettes the participant smoked each day before quitting. This number can refer either to packs (code 1) or individual cigarettes (code 2). If the participant gives an answer that involves halves (i.e., "half a pack" or "one and a half cigarettes" or "two and a half packs") the following conventions should be used:
- PACKS may be reported using whole numbers only and must **not** be rounded. If the participant responds, "one and a half packs," you should convert that to the equivalent number of cigarettes and confirm with the participant. In this case, after converting one and a half packs to 30 cigarettes, the interviewer should confirm with the participant that she indeed smokes 30 cigarettes a day and then record "030" in the number field and circle code 2 (CIGARETTES).
 - You can and should round the number of CIGARETTES up to the nearest whole number. For example, if the participant says, "one and a half cigarettes," the interviewer should record "002" in the number field and circle code 2 (CIGARETTES).
 - Interviewers should always skip to **Question B5** after completing this question.

NOTE: Many questions require the participant to provide an average amount or frequency. Some participants may have difficulty providing averages. (For example, the participant may not have smoked on a daily basis and the number of cigarettes may have varied when she did). The proper probe is to repeat the question emphasizing the words "*average*" and the time frame (e.g., "per day"). If after repeating the question the participant still cannot provide one number, continue probing to obtain a range. For example: "***Can you give me a range of about how many?***" Record the lowest number from that range in the space provided. The interviewer should not calculate averages for the participant. For example, if the participant states that she smoked 7 to 10 cigarettes on Saturday nights only, an **incorrect** probe would be: "***So then would you say that you smoke one cigarette per day on average?***"

If after probing for a range the participant can still not give an answer, code the response as "DON'T KNOW" by recording "-8" (e.g., |_|_|-|8|). Also write "DON'T KNOW" or "DK" in the margin to confirm that the data is missing.

Use the above probing instructions for all questions on this form that ask for an average number.

- B4. Record the average number of cigarettes the participant reports smoking each day. See instructions above regarding how to code ranges, halves, and “DON’T KNOW” responses.

NOTE: If the participant indicates that she currently smokes, please refer her to a smoking cessation program.

- B5. Indicate if the participant has smoked any type of cigar since her (MONTH) study visit (**PROBE:** big cigars, cigarillos, and even little cigars that look like cigarettes). This question does not refer to cigars filled with marijuana, i.e., “blunts.” Questions about marijuana use will be asked later in the interview. If the participant responds “NO,” skip to **Question B7**.

- B6. Ask the participant on how many days during the past 30 days she smoked all or part of a cigar. If response is “zero (0),” skip to **Question B7**.

- a. Ask the participant how many cigars she smoked each day on days she smoked cigars during the past 30 days.

- B7. If the participant reports that she has had no beer, wine, hard liquor or any other alcohol since her (MONTH) study visit, skip to **SECTION C**.

- a. Hand participant **Response Card 9C**. Ask her how often she had a drink containing alcohol since her (MONTH) study visit.

NOTE: If the participant indicates that she drinks at least once a day, nearly every day, or 3 to 4 days a week, refer her to the appropriate counselor.

- b. Ask the participant how many alcoholic beverages she usually has altogether on a day when she drinks any alcoholic beverage.

- B9-B11. In these questions, when the participant is asked to select the **size** of drink (beer, wine, cocktails or hard liquor) she usually drinks, she may select from any option (1 through 30) shown on **Response Card 9B**. For example, even though beer would usually be measured by glass, bottle or can size, if the participant indicates she usually drinks “2 shots” of beer, code “23” should be written on the form.

- B13. By drink, we mean one can, bottle or glass of beer, a glass of wine, a shot of liquor, a mixed drink with that amount of liquor, or any other kind of alcoholic beverage.

- B24-25. In these questions, if the participant answers “YES,” refer her to the appropriate counselor.

- B26. This question is being asked to determine the feasibility of conducting such an intervention as a substudy. However, if the participant indicates that, “YES,” she would be interested in such a program, please refer her to a counselor.

SECTION C: DRUG USE

The purpose of these questions is to collect interim data about the participant’s drug use as it relates to HIV progression (not transmission). This section may be highly sensitive for some women. Be sure to stress confidentiality.

A series of questions is asked for each substance the participant mentions having used/taken. The first question in the series serves as a qualifier. If the participant has *not* used the substance, the form instructs the interviewer to skip to the next substance. If the woman says that she has used that substance, the next questions obtain the general frequency of use, and whether or not use affects the participant’s adherence to her HIV medications.

- C0. This question is included to allow women who have not used **any** illicit or recreational drugs since their last study visit to skip all questions regarding illicit drug use. For this question, marijuana use includes either medical or recreational. If the woman responds “NO” to **Question C0**, skip to **Question C17, on page 17**.

- C1. Ask about use of marijuana or hash since the participant's (MONTH) study visit.
- a. This question inquires as to the participant's average use of marijuana or hash. As previously mentioned, averaging questions may be difficult for some women. Use **Response Card 10** throughout this section. Be sure to read the answer categories aloud the first time the subquestion is asked and again throughout this section as needed. When reading the question, stress the words ***on average*** and encourage the participant to select the choice that comes closest to describing her habits.
 - b. This question asks whether the participant's use of marijuana is for medical only, recreational only, or both medical and recreational purposes.
- C2. Ask if participant has smoked crack since her (MONTH) study visit. If "NO," skip to **Question C3**.
- a. This question inquires as to how often the participant smokes crack on average. As previously mentioned, averaging questions may be difficult for some women. Use **Response Card 10** throughout this section. Be sure to read the answer categories aloud the first time the subquestion is asked and again throughout this section as needed. When reading the question, stress the words ***on average*** and encourage the participant to select the choice that comes closest to describing her habits.
- C3. This series of questions is related to whether or not the participant has injected crack since her (MONTH) study visit. Complete subquestion a as indicated for Question C2.
- C4. This series of questions is related to whether or not the participant has sniffed or snorted cocaine since her (MONTH) study visit. Complete subquestion a as indicated for Question C2.
- C5. This series of questions is related to whether or not the participant has injected cocaine since her (MONTH) study visit. It is important the participant understands that this question refers to injecting cocaine by itself, and not cocaine mixed with heroin, which will be asked about later in the interview. Complete subquestion a as indicated for Question C2.
- C6. This series of questions is related to whether or not the participant has sniffed or snorted heroin since her (MONTH) study visit. Complete subquestion a as indicated for Question C2.
- C7. This series of questions is related to whether or not the participant has smoked heroin since her (MONTH) study visit. Complete subquestion a as indicated for Question C2.
- C8. This series of questions is related to whether or not the participant has injected heroin since her (MONTH) study visit. It is important the participant understands this question refers to injecting heroin by itself, and not heroin mixed with cocaine, which will be asked about later in the interview. Complete subquestion a as indicated for Question C2.
- C9. This series of questions is related to whether or not the participant has injected cocaine and heroin together (speedball) since her (MONTH) study visit. Complete subquestion a as indicated for Question C2.
- C10. This series of questions is related to whether or not the participant has sniffed or smoked methamphetamine (**PROBE:** crank, crystal, tina) since her (MONTH) study visit. Complete subquestion a as indicated for Question C2.
- C11. This series of questions is related to whether or not the participant has injected methamphetamine since her (MONTH) study visit. Complete subquestion a as indicated for Question C2.

- C12. This series of question refers specifically to use of methadone when it was **not** prescribed by a doctor. If the participant does not understand the question, repeat the question stressing the phrase *when it was not prescribed to you by a doctor*. The purpose of this question is to determine the frequency of illicit methadone use. Complete subquestion a as indicated for Question C2.
- C13. This series of questions is related to whether or not the participant has used amphetamines since her (MONTH) study visit. Complete subquestion a as indicated for Question C2.
- C14. This series of questions is related to whether or not the participant has used hallucinogens (e.g., LSD, PCP, mushrooms, peyote) since her (MONTH) study visit. Complete subquestion a as indicated for Question C2.
- C15. This series of questions is related to whether or not the participant has used any club drugs (such as ecstasy, ketamine, GHB) since her (MONTH) study visit. Complete subquestion a as indicated for Question C2.
- C16. This series of questions is related to whether or not the participant has used any other narcotic drugs, such as morphine, codeine, oxycodone or Demoral, **when they were not prescribed by a doctor**, since her (MONTH) study visit. Complete subquestion a as indicated for Question C2.
- d. Some participants may crush narcotic pills or capsules, mix them with liquid, and then inject the contents. This question asks the participant to indicate whether or not she has injected any narcotic drugs.
- C17. This series of questions is related to whether or not the participant has used any tranquilizers, such as sleeping pills, barbiturates or valium, **whether or not they were prescribed by a doctor**, since her (MONTH) study visit. Complete subquestion a as indicated for Question C2.
- C18. Based on the participant's responses to **Questions C3** (injected crack), **C5** (injected cocaine), **C8** (injected heroin), **C9** (injected speedball), **C11** (injected methamphetamine), and **C16d** (injected narcotic drugs), indicate whether or not she has injected any drugs since her (MONTH) study visit. If "NO," skip to **Section D**.

The purpose of the next series of questions is to obtain information that will enable WIHS investigators to look at how drug injection relates to HIV progression. These data will not be used for tracking HIV transmission. These questions may be highly sensitive to some women. If the participant becomes defensive, reassure her that her answers are strictly confidential.

- C19. We would like to know the total number of times the participant injected drugs of any kind since her (MONTH) study visit. This question sounds similar to several of the questions previously asked, but is different in that it pertains to the total number of times the participant injected any kind of drug.
- a. We would like to know if the participant injected drugs in a shooting gallery. Interviewers should not attempt to define "shooting gallery." If the participant asks what that term means, an appropriate response would be, *"Please answer as best you can based on what it means to you."*
- C20. We would like to know how many times over the past month (rather than since her last study visit) the participant injected drugs. It is important that the participant understand the time frame. If the participant has trouble coming up with a number, you may use the probe provided in parentheses immediately after this question. If the participant still cannot give an answer, the interviewer should probe for a range and record the lowest number from the range given. If the participant can provide the number of times she injected drugs each day or each week, the interviewer should calculate the total number of times she injected drugs over the past month based on the participant's response.

C21–C23 This series of question refers to using injection equipment (needles, syringes, cookers, cottons, rinse water) after someone else has used them. A cooker refers to a bottle cap, or other metal holder, used for heating the drugs. The possibility of exposure to various bacteria and viruses exists when water is shared.

For each item, ask the participant how often she has used the specified injection equipment when she is **absolutely sure** it has not been used by anyone else first.

C24–C26 This series of questions refers to the participant using injection equipment (needles, syringes, cookers, cottons, rinse water) before someone else uses them. For each item, ask the participant how often someone else has used the injection equipment when it was first used by the participant.

PROMPT: FOR ALL SHADED RESPONSES IN SECTION C, REFER PARTICIPANT TO THE APPROPRIATE COUNSELOR.

C27. The purpose of this question is to determine if the participant has cleaned her works with bleach since her (MONTH) study visit. Again, information obtained from this question will be used to look at how particular behaviors relate to HIV progression. This may also be a sensitive question. Reassure the participant of confidentiality.

C28. The purpose of this question is to find out if the participant has received clean needles from a needle exchange program. If the woman responds that she has applied to a program but is waiting for a response or that she is on a waiting list, repeat the question stressing the word “*participated.*” We are interested in knowing if she actually received clean needles.

- a. This question is asked to determine, how often—of all the times the participant obtained needles—she obtained them from a needle exchange. Read the question and each response choice. It is very important that the participant hear all of the response categories before selecting her choice. If she has difficulty responding, use probes which encourage her to choose the answer that comes closest to her habits.

SECTIONS D AND E: SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

Sections D and E are used to obtain information about the participant’s sexual risk behavior patterns since her (MONTH) study visit. Questions about the participant’s sexual history are asked in order to obtain a measure of the degree to which the participant engages in high-risk sexual behaviors that may be associated with exposure to HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

SECTION D: MALE PARTNERS

INTRODUCTION: The introduction reminds participants that we are interested in all sexual activity with men, including prostitution or sex in exchange for money, drugs, or shelter. These questions may be highly sensitive. Be sure to ask each question in a professional, matter-of-fact, non-judgmental tone.

D1. This question will obtain information for use in assessing the participant’s sexual risk behaviors. We want to know how many different males (including her main partner) the participant had sex with since her (MONTH) study visit. The probe “*including men or boys*” may be used as clarification. The word “partner” has purposely not been used in this question to ensure that the participant includes all males with whom she has had a sexual encounter of any kind, with or without consent.

The following probes explain what is meant by “sex” and should be used if the participant indicates confusion or difficulty in answering this question. For the purpose of these questions, “sex” includes vaginal sex, both types of oral sex, and anal sex.

- vaginal sex – “*when a man puts his penis in your vagina*”
- oral sex – “*when a man puts his penis in your mouth and/or when a man puts his tongue in or on your vagina*”

- anal sex – “*when a man puts his penis in your rectum (butt/bottom/ass)*”

Record the number using leading zeros. For example: “*three men*” should be recorded as “003.” If the participant declines to give a number, code the response as “DECLINED” by recording a “-7” in the field [|__|_|_7|] and writing “DECLINED” or “DECL” next to the field as a confirmation of the missing data. If the participant indicates that she has not had sex with any males or if she declines to answer, skip to **Section E**.

If the participant says that she doesn’t know, you may need to probe (e.g., “*Could you give me your best estimate?*”). If, after probing non-directively, the participant still cannot give an exact number, obtain a range (e.g., “*Can you estimate by giving me a range?*”). Record the lowest number from the range given. For example: If the participant says, “*I don’t know... more than 10,*” then you would record “010.” Similarly, if the participant says, “*Between 11 and 15,*” record “011.” If the participant can provide the number of different men with whom she had sex each week or each month, the interviewer should calculate the total number of men based on the participant’s response.

If, after probing, the participant still cannot give a number, code the response as “DON’T KNOW” by recording a “-8” in the field and writing “DON’T KNOW” or “DK” beside the field to confirm the missing data. Proceed to **Question D5a** (if the participant has had sex with at least one male).

If the participant reports more than 999 partners, record “999” and confirm that number by writing it in the margin next to the field. If the participant answers “*NONE,*” record “000” and skip to **Section E**.

- If the participant reports at least one male sexual partner since her (MONTH) study visit, we want to know if she considers her main sexual partner to be someone with whom she has an ongoing relationship or if he is a more casual partner. By “main sexual partner” we mean the person with whom the participant has sex most frequently. By “casual partner” we mean someone with whom the participant only has sex with occasionally.
- This question asks whether or not the participant knows the age of her main sexual partner. If the participant knows the age of her main sexual partner, skip to **Question D1d**.
- If the participant does not know the exact age of her main sexual partner, please ask if her main sexual partner is older than her, younger than her, or about the same age as her. Remind her to give her best guess as to her partner’s approximate age.
- If the participant knows the exact age of her main sexual partner, please record his age here.

D2. Ask this question of participants reporting at least one male sexual partner since their (MONTH) study visit.

D5a-D8b. Questions D5a through D8b refer to all the men with whom the participant has had sex since her (MONTH) study visit.

NOTE: For question **D5b**, we are interested in knowing if any type of condom was used during vaginal sex. This means that if either a male or female condom was used, the participant should answer “yes” to this question.

PROMPT: FOR ALL SHADED BOX RESPONSES IN SECTION D, REFER PARTICIPANT TO THE APPROPRIATE COUNSELOR.

D9-D10. For questions D9a, D9b and D10, record whether the specified information (i.e., serostatus of partner(s) and participant) was shared for all, some or none of the participant’s partners.

D11. This question asks whether the participant is HIV-positive. If the participant is HIV-positive, please ask **Questions D12-D20**. If the participant is HIV-negative, skip to **Section E**.

D12-D20. This set of questions will be asked of all HIV-positive participants. These questions utilize the HIV Disclosure and Safer Sex Self-Efficacy Scales to measure self-efficacy for HIV-positive persons disclosing their HIV status to sexual partners. This scale also measures the practice of safer sex for HIV-positive persons. Please read each question and indicate whether the participant strongly disagrees, disagrees, agrees, or strongly agrees with each statement.

SECTION E: FEMALE PARTNERS

Question E1 refers to sexual practices with **all** female partners since the participant's (MONTH) study visit. The words "*including women or girls*" may be used as a probe to ensure that participants include **all** females regardless of age.

E1. This question will obtain information for use in assessing the participant's sexual risk behaviors. We want to know how many different females (altogether, including her main partner) the participant had sex with since her (MONTH) study visit. The probe "*including women or girls*" may be used as clarification. The word "partner" has purposely not been used in this question to ensure that the participant includes all females with whom she had a sexual encounter of any kind, with or without consent.

The following probes explain what is meant by "sex" should be used if the participant indicates confusion or difficulty in answering this question. For the purpose of these questions, "sex" includes vaginal sex, oral sex, and anal sex.

- vaginal sex – "*when a woman puts fingers, fists, sex toys, dildos or vibrators around or in your vagina*"
- oral sex – "*when a woman puts her tongue or mouth in or on your vagina and/or when you put your tongue or mouth in or on another woman's vagina*"
- anal sex – "*when a woman puts fingers, fists, tongue, sex toys, dildos or vibrators in your rectum (butt/bottom/ass)*"

Record the number using leading zeros. For example: "*three women*" should be recorded as "003." If the participant declines to give a number, code the response as "DECLINED" by recording a "-7" in the field [|__|_|7|] and writing "DECLINED" or "DECL" next to the field as a confirmation of the missing data. If the participant indicates that she has not had sex with any females or declines to answer, skip to **Section F**.

If the participant says that she doesn't know, you may need to probe (e.g., "*Could you give me your best estimate?*"). If, after probing non-directively, the participant still cannot give an exact number, obtain a range (e.g., "*Can you estimate by giving me a range?*"). Record the lowest number from the range given. For example: If the participant says, "*I don't know... more than three,*" then you would record "003." Similarly, if the participant says, "*Between eight and ten,*" record "008." If the participant can provide the number of different women with whom she had sex each week or each month, the interviewer should calculate the total number of women based on the participant's response.

If, after probing, the participant still cannot give **any** response at all, code the response as "DON'T KNOW" by recording a "-8" in the field and writing "DON'T KNOW" or "DK" beside the field to confirm the missing data.

If the participant reports more than 999 partners, record "999" and write the actual number in the margin next to the field. If the participant answers "*NONE,*" record "000" and skip to **Question F1**. However, if the response at D1=000 and at E1=000, skip to **Question F3**.

E2. Ask this question of participants reporting at least one female sexual partner since their (MONTH) study visit.

SECTION F: RECENT SEXUAL ENCOUNTERS

If the participant reports having no sex with either males or females (ie., Questions D1 = 000 and E1 = 000) since her (MONTH) study visit, skip to **Section G**.

- F1. We would like to know whether the participant has received drugs, money or shelter from anyone (male or female) in exchange for having **any type of sex** since her (MONTH) study visit. (If necessary, read the definitions of sex given in the QxQs for Questions D1 and/or E1.) If the participant responds she has never had sex for drugs or money or shelter, skip to **Question F3**.
- F1b. We would like to know how many times the participant had sex for drugs since her (MONTH) study visit. If the participant cannot give an exact number, probe for a range by saying, *“Can you estimate by giving me a range?”* Record the lowest number from the range given. If the participant can provide the number of times she had sex for drugs each week or each month, the interviewer should calculate the total number of times since her (MONTH) study visit based on the participant’s response.

PROMPT: FOR ALL SHADED BOX RESPONSES IN SECTION F, REFER PARTICIPANT TO THE APPROPRIATE COUNSELOR.

SECTION G: SEXUAL FUNCTIONING AND AGING

This section will be administered to all participants. These questions (**G1** through **G9**) aim to measure the impact of aging on sexual functioning and well-being in relation to social and intimate relationships among women. The questions ask about sex and sexuality, how the participant feels about sex as she grows older, reasons the participant is not having sex, problems having sex that the participant and her partner have experienced, sexual satisfaction, and discussing sexual health with health care providers.

- G1-G3. This set of questions utilizes the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project scale to measure social and intimate relationships among adults as they grow older. **Questions G1 and G2** are general statements; they are not about specific relationships the participant is currently in.
- G4-G7. This set of questions utilizes the Female Sexual Function Index to measure sexual functioning among women.
- G8-G9. This set of questions utilizes the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project scale to measure the willingness of participants to discuss sex with health care providers and how comfortable she feels discussing sexual issues with a doctor.
- G10. Record the actual time you completed administering the module. Remember to use leading zeros. For example: 08:00 AM; or 06:00 PM. Circle the code for AM (1) or PM (2).