

**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 the form was last administered from the *Visit Control Sheet (VCS)*. In most cases, this will be the date of the last core visit; however, if the previous visit was abbreviated, the date of the abbreviated visit should be used. The month in this date should be used in the questions wherever (MONTH) appears.

**SECTION B: CIGARETTE AND ALCOHOL USE**

- B0a. Ask the participant to indicate, in months, the length of time she has lived in a household with at least one cigarette smoker, other than herself, who smoked in the house since her last study visit. If she has lived in multiple houses since her last study visit, she should include the cumulative number of months in which she has lived with a cigarette smoker who smoked in the house.

- 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.
  - If the participant has started smoking again, refer participant to a smoking cessation program.
  - 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. Ask the participant if she has smoked tobacco in a cigar or pipe, or used chewing tobacco in the past 30 days. This question does not refer to cigars filled with marijuana, i.e., “blunts.” Questions about marijuana use will be asked later in the interview. Circle “yes” for each product the participant reports using. If the participant answers “yes” for either “smoked a pipe” or “chewed tobacco,” ask Questions B5bi and/or B5ci, as appropriate, to indicate the number of times each product was used on a typical day 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 **Question B14**.
- 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.
- B14. This question serves as a qualifier to skip participants who have not been in an alcohol treatment program out of B15–B19. Examples of treatment programs are provided in the question. If the participant requires further clarification, the interviewer can repeat the phrase, “I am interested in **any** alcohol treatment programs you may have been in...” stressing the word “any.” If the participant answers “NO,” skip to the Introduction at **SECTION C**.
- B15–B19: Begin this series by reading the stem question above B15–B19, “What programs?” Allow the participant to mention the names. For each program mentioned, circle 1 (for YES). When the participant stops, probe “Any others?” Continue to probe until the participant says “NO” and then circle 2 (for NO) for each program she did not mention.

### 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 question obtains the general frequency of use.

- 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 C16**.
- C1. Ask about use of marijuana or hash, either medical or recreational, since the participant’s (MONTH) study visit.

- a. Indicate whether or not the participant has a prescription from a medical provider for her use of marijuana or hash.
  - b. This question inquires as to the participant's average use of medical 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.
  - c. This question inquires as to the participant's average use of recreational 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.
  - d. Indicate how the participant typically (most of the time) uses marijuana. If her typical use is via "ingestion" or "vaporizer," then skip to **Question C2**.
  - e. Ask the participant how much marijuana she smokes per occasion when she smokes marijuana. This question refers both to medical and recreational marijuana.
- 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, snorted, or smoked 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.
- 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 question asks about use of prescription drugs in ways that were not prescribed. Not prescribed means that the participant didn't have a doctor's prescription for the drug, used more than was prescribed, or used it to get high. If participant responds "no," skip to **Question C18.**
- C16a. This series of question refers specifically to use of methadone **in a way that was not prescribed.** The purpose of this question is to determine the frequency of illicit methadone use. Complete subquestion b as indicated for Question C2.
- C16c. This series of questions is related to whether or not the participant has used any other prescription narcotic drugs, such as morphine, codeine, oxycodone or Demoral, **in a way that was not prescribed,** since her (MONTH) study visit. Complete subquestion d as indicated for Question C2.
- e. 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.
- C16f. This series of questions is related to whether or not the participant has used amphetamines **in a way that was not prescribed** since her (MONTH) study visit. Complete subquestion g as indicated for Question C2.
- C16h. This series of questions is related to whether or not the participant has used any tranquilizers, such as sleeping pills, barbiturates or valium, **in a way that was not prescribed,** since her (MONTH) study visit. Complete subquestion i as indicated for Question C2.
- C18. Ask if the participant has used any other illicit or recreational drugs, or any other prescription medications in a way that was not prescribed, since her (MONTH) study visit that haven't already been talked about. If "yes," record the name of the drug in subquestion a, and the frequency of use in subquestion b.
- C19. Based on the participant's responses to **Questions C3** (injected crack), **C5** (injected cocaine), **C8** (injected heroin), **C9** (injected speedball), **C11** (injected methamphetamine), and **C16e** (injected narcotic drugs), indicate whether or not she has injected any drugs since her (MONTH) study visit. If "NO," skip to **Question C29.**

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.

- C20. 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.”*
- C21. 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.
- C22. This 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. 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. This question refers to the participant using injection equipment (needles, syringes, cookers, cottons, rinse water) before someone else uses them. 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 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.
- C28. The purpose of this question is to find out if the participant has received clean needles from a pharmacy.
- C29. This question serves as a qualifier to skip out participants who have not been in a drug treatment program. Examples of treatment programs are listed as part of the question. If the participant requires further clarification, the interviewer can repeat the phrase, “I am interested in **any** drug treatment programs you may have been in.” If the participant answers “NO,” skip to **Section D**.
- C30–C38: If the participant indicated (in response to question C29) that she has been in a drug treatment program, read the stem question above C30–C38 (i.e., “What programs?”) and wait for the participant’s response. For each treatment program she mentions, circle code “1” (for YES) and proceed to subquestion “a” which asks how many total days she has been in that particular program or how many total visits she has made to that particular program. Continue to probe for other programs by asking, “Any others?” Once the participant responds “NO” to your probe for any other programs, circle code “2” (for NO) for all of the programs she did not mention. The skips are printed as a reminder to not ask the subquestion for the programs the participant did not mention.
  - a. We would like to know the total number of days the participant has been in each type of treatment OR the total number of visits she has made to a program. If she has started and stopped several times, she should add up all the days/visits she was in that particular type of treatment and give a total number. If the participant cannot give an exact answer, probe for a

range (e.g., “Can you give me a range of about how many days/visits?”). Record the lowest number from the range in the space provided. If the participant can provide the number weeks or months she spent in a particular treatment program, the interviewer should calculate the number days based on the participant’s response. Interviewers should have a calendar available to aid the participant in determining how many days she spent in treatment.

- b. If the participant indicates she is in a medication-assisted drug treatment program (other than methadone and suboxone, which are asked about separately), ask her what drugs she has used in this treatment and write into the specify fields in subquestion b.

## 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 men (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 [    |    |    |    ] 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**.

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.

D9c. Indicate whether or not any of the participant’s partners have been in jail or prison since her (MONTH) study visit.

### 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 **Section F**. However, if the response at D1=000 and at E1=000, skip to **Question G10**.

- 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 (i.e., Questions D1 = 000 **and** E1 = 000) since her (MONTH) study visit, skip to **Question G10**.

- 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 G10**.
- 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.**

- 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).