

Greetings!

NAQC News Flash



You Asked for It!

NAQC frequently receives inquiries from our members and the quitline community. This information was compiled as part of such a request. We feel it is important to share the information with you as a topic of interest.

Topic: Quitline intake questions addressing sexual orientation of the caller

In 2006 NAQC members developed an optional question on sexual orientation for the Minimal Data Set (MDS). Technical documents on the MDS, along with core and optional questions, are available at <http://www.naquitline.org/index.asp?dbid=2&dbsection=research>.

Which state-administered tobacco control quitlines ask callers about their sexual orientation or gender identity at initial intake call?
Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington.

Has this question been considered for the core data set?

Many questions, including sexual orientation were considered for the "core" MDS intake questions. In order to keep the data set "minimal", only questions that were essential for treatment and/or legally required were included in the final data set. The rationale for not including all proposed questions is twofold: to minimize the time it takes clients to complete intake and be transferred to counseling services; and to keep the costs of data collection for MDS as low as possible.

By making sexual orientation an optional question for MDS we provided standardized language to be used by those quitlines wanting to include such questions in their intake protocol, realizing that some quitlines may not be able to include these.

Since 2005, no questions have been added to the "core" MDS. The MDS update workgroup will be considering revisions to the "core"

over the coming months, and will make a recommendation by the end of June.

How is the question worded?

As an optional MDS question the wording is as follows:

Do you consider yourself to be:

- a) Heterosexual or straight
- b) Gay or Lesbian
- c) Bisexual
- DO NOT READ
- d) Don't know
- e) Refused

11 of the 15 quitlines asked the question using the exact MDS wording, 4 asked the question with the same intent, but slightly different wording.

In terms of response categories, 5 quitlines used the exact MDS response categories with the rest using some combination of:
Included "transgender" and/or "other" categories
Did not include "don't know" or "refused" categories
Included "no answer" (usually instead of "refused")

Is the question being asked to all callers, including non-English speaking and youth?

For the population asked, no quitline indicated they did not ask this question of all callers calling for self. Several do not appear to ask the question of proxy callers unless the proxy asks for materials.

For more information about the MDS, please follow this link to the NAQC Web site:

<http://www.naquitline.org/index.asp?dbid=2&dbsection=research>.

Contact Us With Questions

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