

10 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CLIENT ABOUT SUBSTANCE USE

General guidelines

1. Gather information from other sources [official records (health, police, school) and individuals close to the respondent]
2. Note the condition of the client: for example smell, state of dress, coherence, slurring of speech; ability to navigate.
3. Intersperse questions about substance use with questions about other aspects of functioning

Specific questions

4. Ask separately about use of;
 - a. alcohol (type, quantity, frequency, when in the day first drink),
 - b. specific drugs (if you know the street names for drugs, use them; which drugs you ask about will vary depending upon the situation)
 1. marijuana (cannabis)
 2. methadone
 3. heroin
 4. morphine
 5. opium
 6. hashish
 7. codeine
 8. crack/cocaine
 9. cocaine
 10. amphetamines
 11. benzadrine
 12. LSD
 13. mescaline
 14. Ice
 15. tranquillizers
 16. barbiturates
 - c. Prescription medications.
5. Ask if anyone close to the respondent has ever been concerned about their alcohol or drug use. If yes, ask for specifics.
6. Does respondent sometimes think he/she needs to cut down on substance use?
Ask for details.
7. Ask how the respondent copes with stress; sleep difficulties.
8. Ask how the respondent relaxes, has fun.
9. Ever had an encounter with the law because of substance use?
Ask for details
- 10 Has respondent ever received treatment for use of substances?
Ask for details.