

Redesign Considerations for the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)

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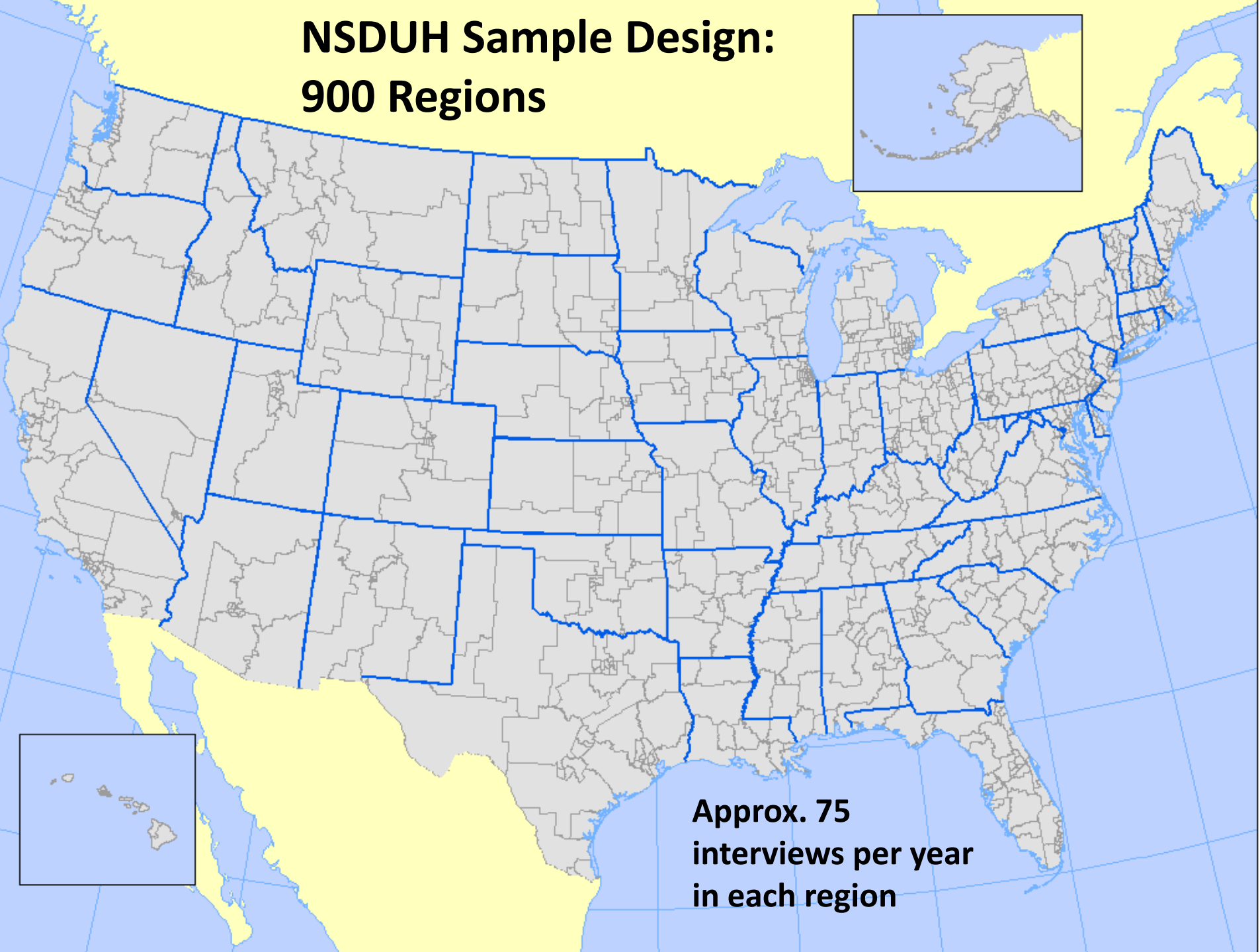


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Office of Applied Studies
www.samhsa.gov

NSDUH Sample Design

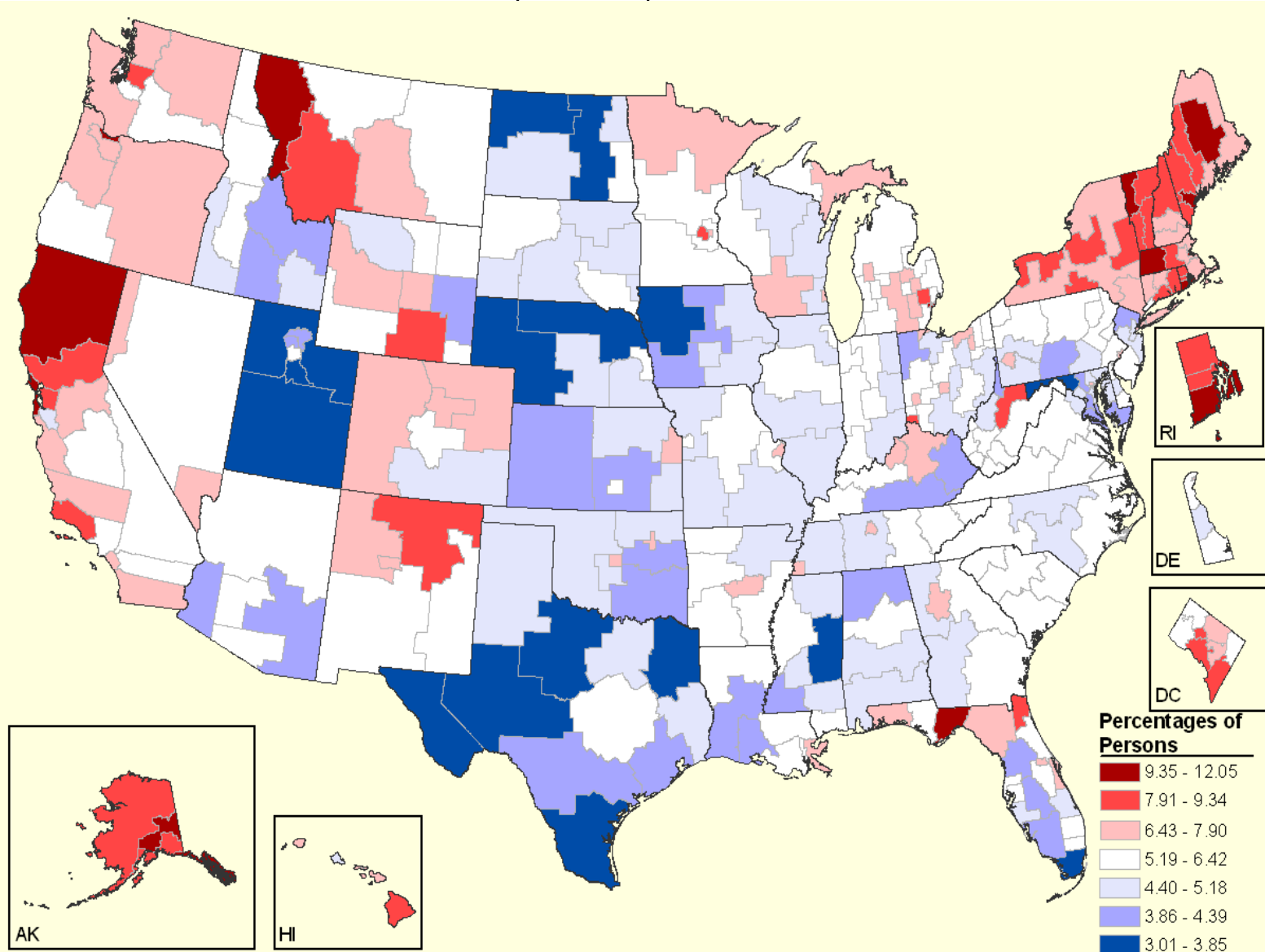
- Annual household survey, since 1971
- Civilian noninstitutional pop., age 12+
- Representative nationally and in each State
 - 3,600 interviews in “large” states; 900 in “small”
- Oversample age 12 to 25
- Zero, one or two persons can be selected in each HH

NSDUH Sample Design: 900 Regions



**Approx. 75
interviews per year
in each region**

Marijuana Use in Past Month among Persons Aged 12 or Older, by Substate Region: Percentages, Annual Averages Based on 2004, 2005, and 2006 NSDUHs



Source: SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2004, 2005, and 2006.

NSDUH Questionnaire Design and Administration

- **Collect information on substance use and treatment, mental health, risk factors, various demographics**
- **Face to face, computer-assisted, self-administered (ACASI)**
- **Questionnaire includes core and non-core components**

Why Redesign?

- **Update questionnaire and sample design to meet current data needs and measure new phenomena**
 - Are State and substate estimates still a priority?
 - Are we collecting the most critical data?
 - Prescription drug questions outdated; new drugs are abused now
- **Implement better data collection and estimation methods**
 - List frame could produce substantial cost savings
 - Current estimation methods are complex, costly
- **Reduce cost to expected budget levels**

Redesign Plan

- **Assess data needs**
- **Methods research and development**
 - **Explore various design alternatives in terms of cost and impact on data quality and analytic capability**
 - **Assess impact on estimates, and whether redesign could be done with a split sample to “bridge” old and new estimates**
 - **Field test promising data collection methods**
- **Present plan to leadership to gain acceptance**
- **Award contract for redesigned survey**

Assessing Data Needs

- **Consult with data users**
 - **State data users survey**
 - **E-mail contacts with key data users**
 - **Seminars with SAMHSA leadership and staff**
 - **Expert consultant meetings**

Prior Relevant Studies

- Mode/setting/context effects studies
 - Effects can be large for sensitive data
- Validity Study (2000-2001)
 - Hair, urine collected from 4,000 NSDUH respondents
 - Showed feasibility, but questions remain as to how data can be used in statistical reports
- Reliability Study (2006)
 - Re-interviewed 3,000 NSDUH respondents
 - Very good reliability for most variables
- Impact of incentives on reporting
 - Significant impact found in 2002
- Interviewer Effects Analysis
 - Interviewer experience impacts respondent reporting of drug use

Methods Studies-Sampling

- **USPS Frame Study**
 - Field test using frame constructed from residential mailing lists
- **Sample Issues Study**
 - Determine optimal cluster sizes
 - Assess impact of changing sampling rates for demographic and geographic groups
 - Assess feasibility of interviewing kids under 12
- **Investigation of Census/ACS Options**
 - Assess the use of the ACS for sampling, small area estimation, and weighting activities
- **Contact Materials Study**
 - Develop improved informational documents that respondents receive

Methods Studies- Estimation

- **Imputation and Editing Evaluation**
 - Evaluating different methods to simplify procedures and reduce processing time
- **Weighting Assessment**
 - Examining different predictor variables to improve weighting adjustments
- **Small Area Estimation**
 - Studying ways to estimate change and trends more efficiently and evaluate the quality of substate estimates

Methods Studies-Questionnaire

- Questionnaire Structure Study
 - Test “ensemble” vs. “interleafed” format
 - Explore moving more questions to core
- Text-to-Speech Software Study
- Prescription Drug Module Redesign
 - Update definitions for nonmedical use and therapeutic classes
 - Incorporate drugs that have emerged since original design
 - Move methamphetamine out of context of prescription drugs

Implementation Issues

- **Uncertain budget/priorities**
- **Preserving trends**
 - **Old vs. new design**
 - **After new design is implemented**
- **Communication between survey design staff and senior management/decisionmakers**

Where We Are & Where We Go From Here

- **Some studies are completed**
- **Continue those studies not completed**
- **Make results public**
- **Consolidate and summarize all the information for policy makers**
- **Continue work with uncertain budget and priorities**