

Errata: CAS Microdata eGuide

The CAS included a brief six-item screener to measure problematic drug use. The screener, the ASSIST, was developed by the World Health Organization.

An error was recently found in one symptom (represented in the questionnaire by two items: CNAS5 and ASSIS5) of the ASSIST scale. Properly stated, the question is “Have you ever tried [AND FAILED] to control, cut down or stop using cannabis, marijuana or hashish {or other drugs}. The phrase “and failed” was not asked of respondents. This error, in turn, affects the following derived variables in the Microdata eGuide: ASISTCAN, ASISTCN3, ASISTCN2, ASISTIL, ASISTIL2 and ASISTIL3.

NOTE: A small study to assess the impact of the missing “and failed” phrase suggested that estimates with the missing phrase underestimate the standard ASSIST item, but total scores and their cutoffs do not differ significantly between the two versions. This error should not affect estimates of subgroup differences (i.e., sex, age and regional differences). Caution and warning should be used in making direct comparisons with other studies using the ASSIST.

Variables affected by the missing “and failed” wording:

Page	Variables/ items
P. 41	CNAS5
P. 41	ASCAN5
P. 41	ASISTCAN
P. 41	ASISTCN3
P. 42	ASISTCN2
P. 50	ASIS5
P. 50	ILASIS5
P. 50	ASISTIL
P. 50	ASISTIL3
P. 51	ASISTIL2