

Errata: CAS Detailed Report

August 2007

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 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: ASISTCAN, ASISTCN3, ASISTCN2, ASISTIL 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.

Chapter 5:

Page	For	Should read
P.49, column 1, line 18	"The most common concern is failing to control use (4.8%)..."	"The most common concern is attempts to cut down (4.8%)..."
P.49, column 1, line 24	"Among past-year cannabis users, about one-third report failing to control their use (34.1%) and a strong..."	"Among past-year cannabis users, about one-third report attempts to cut down (34.1%) and a strong ..."
P.49, column 2, line 22	"...(5) whether they ever tried and failed to control, cut down, or stop using cannabis."	"...(5) whether they ever tried to control, cut down, or stop using cannabis."
P.51, column 1, line 4	"The most common concern is failing to control use (4.8%)..."	"The most common concern is attempts to cut down (4.8%)..."
P.51, column 1, line 9	"Among past-year cannabis users, about one-third report failed control (34.1%) and a strong..."	"Among past-year cannabis users, about one-third report attempts to cut down (34.1%) and a strong ..."
P.51, column 2, line 10	"However, a sizeable percentage—about one-third—report failed attempts to reduce..."	"However, a sizeable percentage—about one third—report attempts to reduce..."
P.54, Table 5.4, row 5	"Failed control (lifetime)"	"Attempts to cut down (lifetime)"

Chapter 6:

Page	For	Should read
P.59, column 1, line 26	"The most commonly reported symptoms are failure to control use..."	"The most commonly reported symptoms are attempts to cut down ..."
P.70, Table 6.10, row 5	"Have you ever tried and failed to control, cut down or stop using drugs?"	"Have you ever tried to control, cut down or stop using drugs?"

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A 12-page summary of selected CAS findings is also available in print and on CCSA's website:
Canadian Addiction Survey (CAS): A national survey of Canadians' use of alcohol and other drugs:
Prevalence of use and related harms: Highlights.

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