



QDS™ NEWSLETTER

Questionnaire Development System



QDS™ Introduced Down Under

NOVA Research Company recently completed a U.S. Department of Commerce trade mission to three cities in Australia and New Zealand. Along with seven other U.S. companies focusing on health care technologies, NOVA demonstrated its Questionnaire Development System (QDS™) and Handheld-Assisted Personal Interview (HAPI™) software to organizations that perform research in the public health field, including: Centre for Physical Activity and Health University of Sydney, Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation (CHERE), School of Public Health, NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre University of Sydney, Turning Point and Alcohol Drug Centre, Melbourne, the Health Research Council of New Zealand, Auckland and the New Zealand AIDS Foundation, Auckland. The trip was a great success professionally and personally for NOVA's staff members who were warmly welcomed by the people of Australia and New Zealand. ♦



Front row: Paul Beech, Isolux; Susan Scheck, NOVA; Bill Kutson, USDOC; and Ben Neal, NOVA

Back row: Steve Kohn, NOVA; Nick Exarhos, Axiom Worldwide; Szabolcs Dorotovics, Johns Hopkins Medicine International; Jack Bowie, Apelon, Inc.; Chet Warfel and Kirk Warfel, Arcoa Industries, Inc.; and Denis Drennan, DM Systems

QDS™ at APHA

Philadelphia, PA, December 10-14

QDS™ demonstrations, a drawing for **free** software, and **50% DISCOUNTS** at **Booth 816**.

Details on page 4.

Thank You!!

2005 QDS™ Purchasers

- Academy for Educational Development
- Boston Dept. of Public Health
- Bronx AIDS Services, Inc.
- Center for Sexual Health & HIV Research
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Colorado State University
- Columbia University Medical Center
- Columbia University School of Social Work
- Courtyard Clinic (London, UK)
- DC Community Education Group
- Drug Strategies, DC
- Emory University
- Florida International University
- Kidney Foundation of Puerto Rico
- George Washington University
- Global AIDS Program for Central America
- Governors State University
- Harris County Health Dept.
- Health Research Association
- Illinois State University
- Institute for Faith-Health Leadership
- Institute for Health Policy, MGH
- Johns Hopkins University
- Los Angeles Childrens Hospital
- M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
- Morehouse School of Medicine
- New Mexico Dept. of Health
- People of Color in Crisis
- Phuket Provincial Chief Medical Office
- Regai Dzive Shiri, Zimbabwe
- San Diego State University
- SATELLIFE
- Treatment Research Institute
- UCLA-NSRC
- UCSF-CAPS
- UNC Chapel Hill
- UNDP Serbia and Montenegro
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Florida
- University of Miami
- University of North Texas
- University of Puerto Rico School of Public Health
- University of Southern California
- University of Texas, El Paso
- University of Illinois-COIP
- University of Oklahoma
- USC Keck School of Medicine
- Yale University



POSIT and QDS™

As mentioned in our last newsletter (May 2005), POSIT (Problem Oriented Screening Instrument for Teenagers), is a 10-problem area, 139-item scale originally created for utilization by service providers and clinicians to identify potential problems and service needs in areas such as substance abuse, mental and physical health, and social relations, in adolescents 12 to 19 years of age. With the advent of HIV and the increase in sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) among adolescents, the adolescent services field has called for an 11th problem area—risk of future exposure to HIV/STDs. In 2000, using a 30-item scale developed by experts in the field of public health under an NIH R01 grant, NOVA began a validity and reliability study for an HIV/STD screener scale to be used either with the POSIT or as a standalone scale.

Eight performance sites in the Phase I English-language study were located throughout the country. Each site used QDS™ to administer the POSIT instrument and QDS™ Warehouse Manager to manage the data. More than 1,400 adolescent participants (mean age, 15.8 years) were included in the data set. One of the challenges in screening for risk of future exposure to HIV and STDs is obtaining accurate responses from a self-report instrument, and the sensitivity of the questions in the HIV/STD scale contributes to the problem. A key for Phase I data collection was using the QDS™ ACASI (Audio Computer-Assisted Self-Interview) on laptops to allow the instrument to be self-administered. This helped ensure confidentiality and privacy and elicit truthful responses. Other limitations for Phase I resulted from political issues. Due to the nature of the questions, parental consent had to be obtained. Collecting data in schools was impossible in Phase I, therefore, only convenience samples were examined. Data analysis and writing has begun for the Phase I Study of the POSIT and HIV/STD scale. The POSIT Team feels that the statistical results show that the HIV/STD scale is a good instrument for screening of adolescents.

The POSIT Team is currently setting up the Phase II Spanish-language study, using the translated POSIT and HIV/STD scale. Three sites participated in the Spanish translation process: University of Arizona, University of Miami, and Montefiore Medical Center. These sites represented Latinos

of large groups in the U.S., namely, Puerto Ricans, Cuban Americans, and Mexican Americans. An important step in the translation process included focus groups with Spanish-speaking Latino adolescents. Researchers again used QDS™ ACASI to administer the instrument, which allowed for quick and accurate data collection. The end product of the translation process is a PAN instrument; a general instrument that can be used by Latinos from different national origins.

For more information about the POSIT instrument and recent research, contact Paul Young, Principal Investigator, at payoung@novaresearch.com. ♦

QDS™ Tips & Tricks

Problem: QDS™ Warehouse Manager gives the error message “QDS™ was not able to recover any usable information” when opening a .QAD file.

Reason: If your ACASI or CAPI interview is not properly shut down, the interview file can become damaged. When you try to open the file in the Warehouse Manager, the file cannot always be recovered.

Solution: To attempt interview recovery, you will need to “resume” the damaged interview. Select your control file from the CAPI or ACASI *Open* dialog box and select the *Resume a Prior Interview* radio button. If the last interview is at all recoverable, the program will jump to the last question answered. If this is the very last screen of the interview, select *Next Question* to get the *Save* message prompt. If it is not the end, type *Alt-F4* to terminate the interview and save when prompted. If the file is properly saved, you should be able to open the .QAD file in the Warehouse Manager.

Note: Sometimes you may receive a message when opening interview files in the Warehouse Manager: “Discarding ‘n’ bytes from end of interview file.” This sounds disturbing; however, it does not mean that there is a problem. Sometimes QDS™ pads the end of the file with bytes that are not needed. When the file is reopened, QDS™ informs you that it is removing the excess bytes.



QDS-Web™ Update

NOVA Research Company is currently working on a data-collection module for the Internet—QDS-Web™. System administrators will only need to install and configure the QDS-Web™ application once; survey designers will use QDS™ Design Studio to build a QDS-Web™ module and use the Administrator Tool to deploy surveys onto the Web.

The QDS-Web™ Administrator Tool allows the survey designer to build and administer his or her own Web surveys, using specifications defined in the QDS™ Design Studio. After entering each question and information element into the Design Studio, building a Web survey is no more complex than building a CAPI or ACASI control file. Simply click the Build menu and select Web Application. Next, supply a location on your hard drive where you would like to save the Web survey control file or SQL script. The QDS-Web™ Administrator Tool provides an easy-to-use, Web-based interface that is accessed using a Web browser. Once the SQL script has been created, log into

The POSIT instrument administered within a Web page

the QDS-Web™ Administrator Tool using a username and password provided by the QDS-Web™ server administrator.

Once logged in, the Administrator Tool presents a number of menu options, including an Add Survey option. Click the Add Survey link and provide a Survey Name and Survey Description using standard Web form elements. Next, click the Browse button and locate the Web survey control file (SQL Script) generated in the QDS™ Design Studio using a File/Open dialog box. After selecting the control file and uploading it by clicking the Upload button, the Administrator Tool will notify the user that the survey has been successfully added. The survey is now ready to be administered on the Web by navigating to the correct URL configured for the QDS-Web™ server.

After Web survey data have been collected, the survey designer can again log into the QDS-Web™ Administrator Tool to generate summary reports. This will allow the user to view each response from a particular respondent. Additionally, if the QDS-Web™ server administrator has given the survey designer access, he or she will be able to remove surveys from the server and export the data to use with MS Access, SAS, or SPSS. ♦

Available User Management Functions:	Available Survey Management Functions:
Add User	Add Survey
Edit User	View Survey Details
Remove User	Remove Survey

Registered QDS-Web Users:	QDS-Web Surveys Installed:
admin	Demographics_vlin
Saber	NHBS
AGreene	QDS_Web_Feedback
LJarama	SurveySample
KBarrett	Raysurvey
DEckstein	Amanda
TValero	Surveyya
CMorton	Ben_Demographic
RButler	POSIT
ERorie	9 Surveys Installed
PDelgado	
VJin	
NStultz	
PYoung	
14 Registered Users	

[Generate Summary Report](#)

The QDS-Web™ Administrator Tool



Evidence-based Policy & Practice
APHA 133rd Annual Meeting & Exposition

QDS™ at APHA

Due to the devastating situation in New Orleans, the American Public Health Association's 2005 Annual Meeting has

been moved to the Philadelphia Convention Center December 10-14, 2005. Please look for us in **Booth 816** at the Public Health Exposition. We will have demos of QDS™ running on laptops and a Pocket PC, as well as a drawing for a **free** copy of QDS™ Design Studio and HAPI™. Additionally, we will be distributing cards for our nationwide drawing for a complete data collection package, including an iPAQ™ Pocket PC and QDS™ software. Conference attendees will receive a **50% DISCOUNT** on all QDS™ modules purchased during the meeting.

The meeting program is being revised to address gulf coast relief efforts and issues concerning the public health infrastructure, providing an important opportunity for participants to collaborate and construct long-term solutions to best address this tragedy. NOVA Research Company is examining ways in which QDS™ could be used in emergency situations. ♦

How Are You Using QDS™?

We would like to know! Please e-mail Margaret Schedel at mschedel@novaresearch.com with a description or story of your unique application of QDS™ (don't forget to include citations for any published articles based on your work), and it may be posted on our Web site. You might also be featured in the next *QDS™ Newsletter!*



NOVA Research Company
4600 East-West Highway, Suite 700
Bethesda, MD 20814-3414

<http://www.novaresearch.com/Products/qds>

PLACE
STAMP
HERE