

**GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AND  
RESULTS ACT (GPRA)  
CLIENT OUTCOME MEASURES  
FOR DISCRETIONARY PROGRAMS**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS  
(FAQs) FOR  
Discretionary Services Programs  
FY09 GPRA Tool Changes**

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*Version 2.5*

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) FOR  
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*[These FAQs are not intended for Access to Recovery (ATR) and Strengthening Treatment Access and Retention—State Implementation (STAR-SI) grantees.]*

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*Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) Tool Changes*

**1. What are the tool changes?**

Seven new questions have been added to the GPRA tool. The questions have been added to the following sections:

- Section A, Record Management, collects information on screening for co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.
- Section A, Demographics, collects information on veteran status. (Note: Veteran status identifies whether or not the client has served in the U.S. uniformed services [Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, Coast and Geodetic Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration] or who served as a Merchant Marine seaman during World War II. Persons who served in the National Guard or military Reserves are classified as veterans only if they were ever called or ordered to active duty, not counting the 4–6 months for initial training or yearly summer camps.) This item will allow the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) to identify the number of veterans served. Identifying a client’s veteran status allows CSAT and its discretionary grantees the ability to monitor the outcomes for these clients.

**As a guideline.** A veteran is a person 16 years or over who has served (even for a short time), but is not now serving, on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or who served as a Merchant Marine seaman during World War II. Persons who served in the National Guard or military Reserves are classified as veterans only if they were ever called or ordered to active duty, not counting the 4–6 months for initial training or yearly summer camps.

- Section C, Question 1, has added a response category for Dormitory/College Residence status.
- Section F asks whether the client been tested for HIV and if the client has knowledge of the test results.
- Section J asks if the program has tested the client for HIV and/or if the client was referred for HIV testing.

### *Data Collection and Timing Issues*

- 2. If a client comes to our agency for HIV testing and we partner with another agency to complete the testing, how do we record the answer to the question “Did the program test this client for HIV?”**

The response to question J3 would be “No” and to question J4 would be “Yes.” For question J3, HIV testing services recorded on the GPRA Tool should only reflect services that are provided and paid for with your CSAT grant’s funds.

- 3. What screening tool should we use to screen for Co-occurring disorders?**

CSAT does not require programs to screen their client’s for co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, this question was developed to capture whether or not programs are screening their client’s for co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders using CSAT funds. SAMHSA is not requiring a particular screening instrument for programs to use. You can access SAMHSA’s Center for Co-Occurring Excellence for guidance on screening tools for co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders at <http://coce.samhsa.gov/>.

- 4. What is the difference in testing and screening for HIV, and how do we determine which one is what CSAT is looking for?**

SAMHSA does not require that grantees use a particular HIV screening tool or test. The HIV screening tool should produce a positive or negative result.

- 5. When do the tool changes take effect?**

The new tool should be used to collect information from all clients starting July 13, 2009.

- 6. What is the last day to enter records into the Services Accountability Improvement System (SAIS) using the old GPRA tool?**

Grantees will still be able to enter or upload data that was collected using the old GPRA tool on and after July 13, 2009; however, the intake date for data collected using the old tool must be prior to July 13, 2009, for the data to be accepted by the SAIS system.

Except for Access to Recovery (ATR) or Strengthening Treatment Access and Retention–State Implementation (STAR-SI) grantees who will continue to use their current tool, GPRA data collected on or after July 13, 2009, must use the new GPRA tool to collect and enter data into the SAIS system. The system will not accept data collected on or after July 13, 2009 that does not reflect the new GPRA items.

### **7. How can I be sure I am using the most current GPRA tool?**

You will be able to distinguish the new tool from the old tool by noticing the expiration date on the front cover of the tool. The expiration date on the new tool is April 30, 2012.

### **8. If I have completed an interview with my client using the old tool, which tool do I use to complete subsequent interviews?**

If you have completed, for example, an Intake GPRA with the client using the old tool prior to July 13 and entered the data into SAIS, the new tool would be used to complete any follow-up and/or discharge interviews conducted after July 12. Records for GPRA interviews conducted and entered into SAIS before July 13 should not be redone on the new GPRA tool.

## *Reports and Downloading Data*

### **9. What reports can I use to review the new GPRA questions?**

Data collected from the new questions are captured in the following reports:

- Frequency Report
- Cross-Tabulations Report
- Missing Data Frequency Report
- Demographics Report
- Length of Stay Client Characteristics Report
- Treatment Non-Completers Report

### **10. Does the GPRA Codebook reflect the new changes?**

The Revised GPRA Codebook has been updated to reflect the new tool changes. It is available on the SAIS Web site. Until July 13, 2009, both versions of the codebook will be available. After July 13, only the new codebook will be available.

### **11. Will there be changes to the upload process?**

Yes. The upload process will require minimal modification. There have been changes to the Screening, Brief Treatment, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Upload Field Descriptions and the SBIRT XML file, and these have been communicated to the SBIRT grantees.