

Can patients screen themselves?

Pilot study of an audio guided computer assisted self interview (ACASI) approach in primary care

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Background

- Time is of the essence in primary care
- Very brief screening tools exist, but many patients still need follow-up assessment
- ...All of which should happen prior to the medical visit

Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST)

- Validated, fairly brief
- Combines screening and assessment
- Clinical advantages: Comprehensive, substance specific, gives risk stratification
- But takes 5-15 minutes of face-to-face contact to administer
- Requires calculation of a score

Could self-administered ASSIST be a solution to screening in primary care?

- Could be completed prior to medical visit
- Self-administered instruments encourage reporting of stigmatized conditions
- However, complex skip patterns and literacy level are barriers

Audio Computer Assisted Self Interview (ACASI) Version of ASSIST

In your life, have you ever used **cocaine (coke, crack, etc.)**?

A) No

B) Yes

Help

Refuse to Answer

Don't Know

Previous Question

Next Question

Repeat the Question

In the past three months, how often have you used **cocaine (coke, crack, etc.)**?

A) Never

B) Once or Twice

C) Monthly

D) Weekly

E) Daily or Almost Daily

Help

Refuse to
Answer

Don't
Know

Previous
Question

Next
Question

Repeat
the
Question

During the past three months, how often has your use of **cocaine (coke, crack, etc.)** led to health, social, legal, or financial problems?

A) Never

B) Once or Twice

C) Monthly

D) Weekly

E) Daily or Almost Daily

Help

Refuse to
Answer

Don't
Know

Previous
Question

Next
Question

Repeat
the
Question

ACASI ASSIST Pilot Study - Objectives

1. Test the usability and acceptability of ACASI ASSIST among an urban, safety net hospital primary care patient population.
2. Prepare for a validation study comparing ACASI with 'traditional' interviewer ASSIST.

Recruitment

- Study site: Primary care clinic of a large public hospital in New York City
- Eligibility: Adult; English or Spanish speaking; current primary care patient
- Approached consecutively
- Completed ACASI ASSIST in waiting room
- Incentive: \$4.50 transit card
- 25 English, 10 Spanish

Description of Study Participants (N=35)

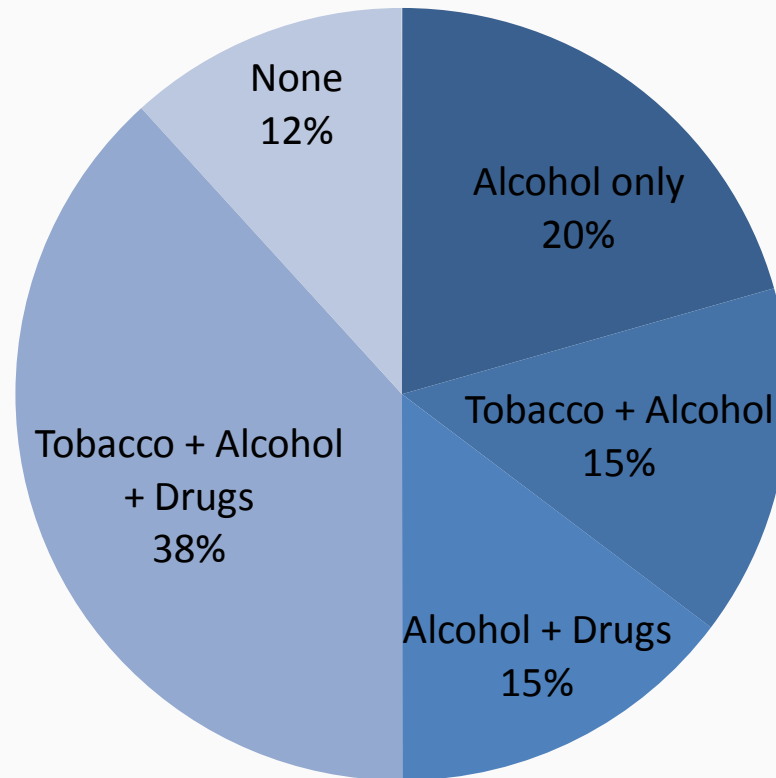
Age	Mean 49 years, SD=11, Range 28-72 years	
Sex (%)	Male	57
	Female	43
Race/Ethnicity (%)	Hispanic	50
	Black/African American	29
	White/Caucasian	15
	Other	6
Primary Language (%)	English	63
	Spanish	29
	Other	9
Foreign Born (%)	54	

Computer Familiarity of Study Participants (N=35)

Computer in the home (%)		28%
Frequency of computer use (%)	Daily	56%
	Several times/week	32%
	Once a month or less	12%

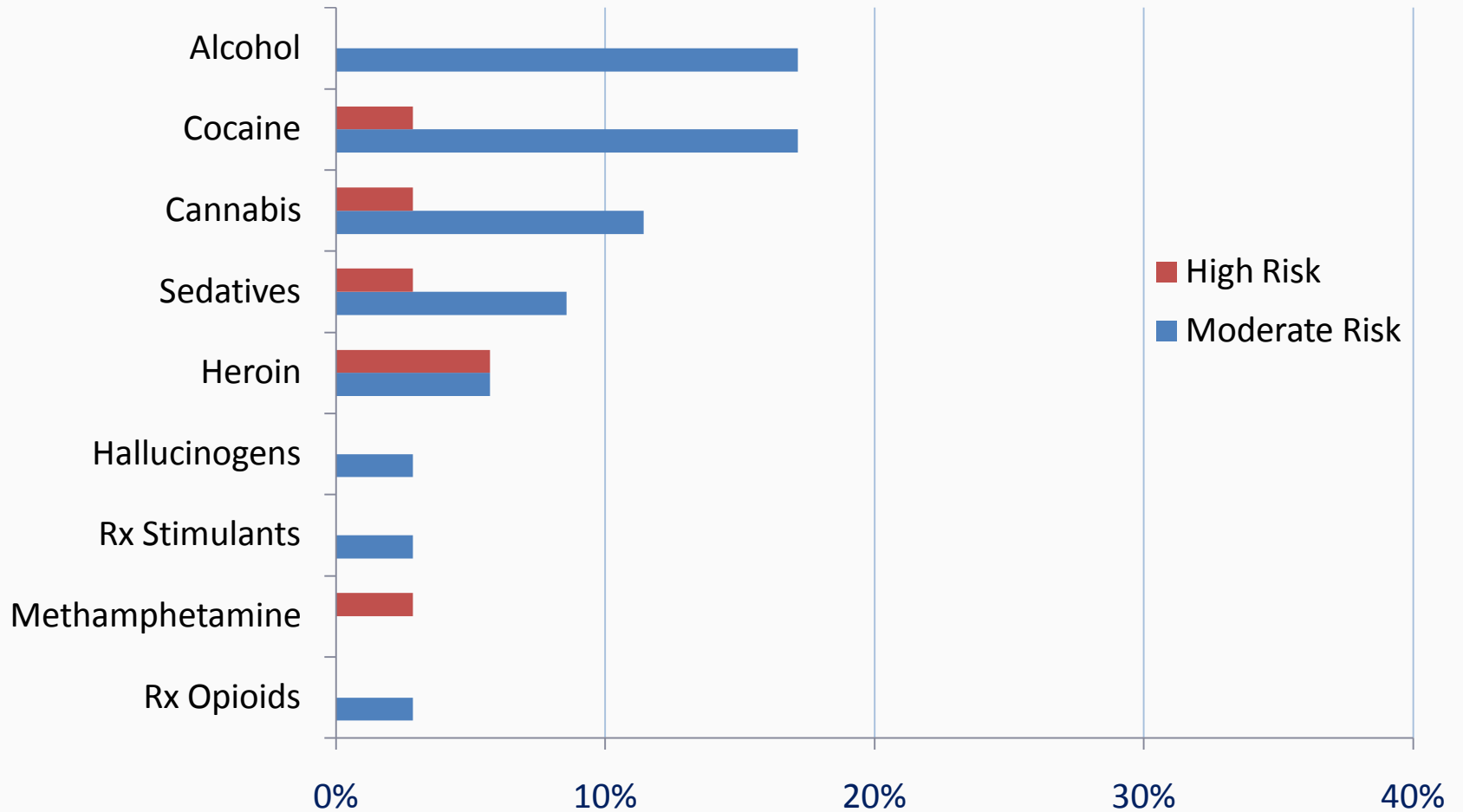
ASSIST Results

Lifetime Substance Use (N=35)



Not Shown: Tobacco Only (n=1)

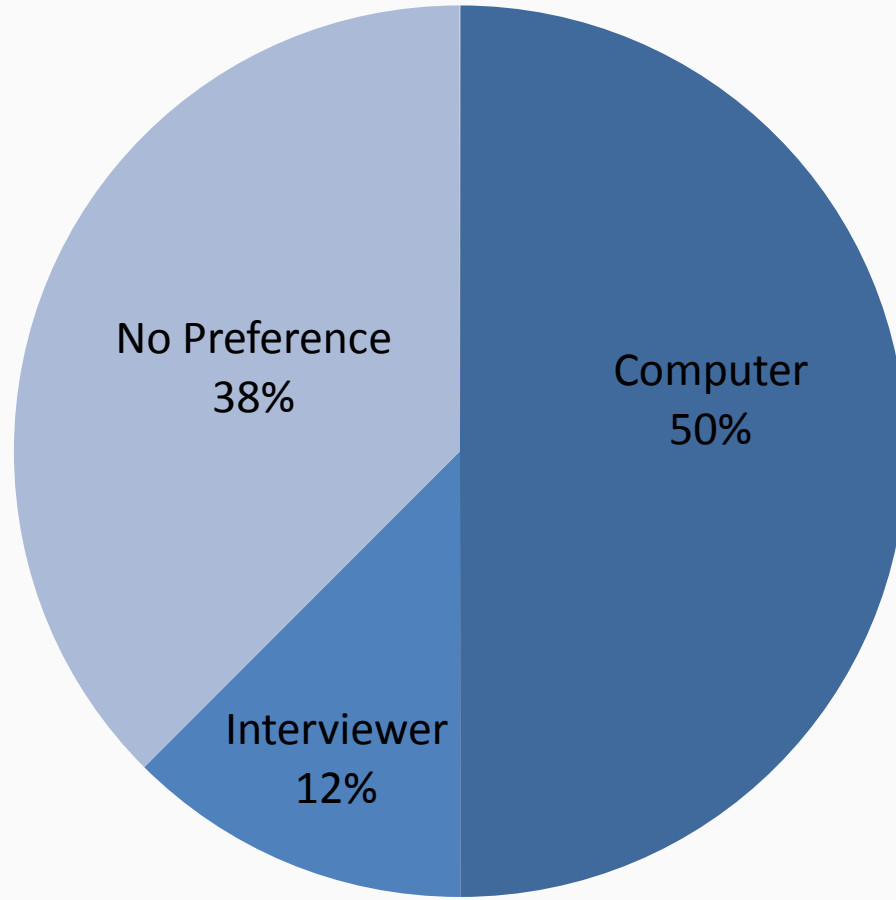
Current Moderate or High Risk Use (N=35)



Usability of the ACASI ASSIST

- Responses 100% complete for all participants
- Mean time to complete: 5.6 min
(range 1.5-17.2 min)
- Felt comfortable : 97% (missing data for 3)

Patient Preferences for Substance Use Screening



Limitations

- Pilot study, small N
- Research volunteers may not represent general clinic population
- No formal tracking of requests for assistance
- Did not attempt to verify substance use against a gold standard measure

Conclusions and Next Steps

- ACASI approach was feasible and acceptable among this primary care population
 - Culturally diverse
 - Safety net population
 - Range of computer familiarity
- Further work is needed to establish validity of the ACASI version of ASSIST

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