

# Adapting Surveys and Educational Materials for Deaf Audiences

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## Adapting Health Surveys

### The Translation Working Group (TWG)

**Role:** Create an ASL "video script" for the survey, starting with the list of English questions and answers

**Membership:** TWG is three researchers with medical and/or translation experience and three members of the Deaf Health Community Committee. All TWG members are bilingual in ASL and English.

**Collaboration:** Together, we reach consensus on ASL translations that best match the meaning and medical/survey intent of the original English, while fitting the linguistic and cultural parameters of ASL.

### Examples of Challenging Translations

**Linguistic Challenge:** English surveys use one word – "drink" to mean many different kinds of alcoholic beverages. ASL uses different signs for "drink" depending on the type of alcohol (e.g., beer vs. cocktail vs. shot).

**Cultural Challenge:** The researchers want to know how strongly the survey-taker feels connected to Deaf culture. This is hard to capture in one question. We recommended several questions that ask about self-identification, who you socialize with, and if you've attended a school for the deaf.

**Medical Challenge:** There is a new HIV test that uses saliva. What is the exact method used to collect the saliva (so it can be shown properly in ASL)? Answer: not by "swabbing" the cheek (as we thought at first) but by leaving the swab between the cheek and gum.

### TWG Adaptation Steps

- 1) Receive survey item lists from NCDHR Research Committee
- 2) Review films of the first translations that were suggested by a native ASL user and researcher.
- 3) Discuss and reach consensus on ASL translation for each item, considering linguistic, cultural, medical, and survey methodology factors
- 4) Note terms and medical concepts needing further explanation for inclusion in "expansion dictionary"
- 5) Film TWG deaf members signing translated ASL items, creating the initial video script
- 6) A bilingual expert who has not seen the original English questions back-translates the ASL video script
- 7) TWG compares the back-translations to the original English questions
- 8) TWG modifies script items when original English vs. back-translated English are too different
- 9) Research Committee defines terms in expansion dictionary and creates survey instructions and consent form
- 10) TWG translates expansion dictionary, survey instructions, and consent
- 11) TWG deaf members are filmed signing expansion dictionary, survey instructions, and consent
- 12) Final video script items, dictionary, and instructions are collected on one DVD
- 13) DHCC Outreach Committee selects several "sign models"
- 14) Sign models are filmed following the TWG video scripts
- 15) Video clips are inserted into survey interface

Note: A similar process is being followed by an English-style sign communication translation working group

## Adapting DBT Skills Training Films