

**Supporting Statement B  
for  
Request for Generic Clearance  
for Methodological Studies for the Population  
Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH)  
Study (NIDA)**

**January 29, 2013**

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## **B. STATISTICAL METHODS**

### **B.1 Respondent Universe and Sampling Methods**

Each methodological study request submitted under this generic clearance to OMB will include a description of the sample, sampling plan, and the recruitment approach. The surveys and focus group discussions, and individual interviews undertaken as part of this request will involve both purposive and nonpurposive samples with respondents selected either to cover a broad range of groups (e.g., all PATH Study respondents in a specific geographical area) or to include specific characteristics related to the topic of the study (e.g., 18-24 year old users of specific tobacco products). Only adults aged 18 or older and youth aged 12-17 will be included in these methodological studies. These information collections will be undertaken to improve the implementation, data collection procedures, and techniques for achieving high rates of response, retention, and follow-up of the PATH Study and will, as needed, use its strategy for sample or subsample selection.

### **B.2 Procedures for the Collection of Information**

Data collection procedures under this generic clearance will be varied and will include telephone discussions, in-person, telephone, or web-based focus groups and individual interviews, and Web surveys. More specific information about data collection procedures will be contained in the description memo submitted to OMB under this generic clearance.

### **B.3 Methods to Maximize Response Rates and Deal with Nonresponse**

Methodological studies submitted under this generic clearance may use different methods to recruit and retain respondents. In general, reminder telephone calls, e-mails, and letters will be used to maximize response rates for surveys, focus groups, individual qualitative interviews, and biospecimen collection. These will

be used to encourage potential respondents to keep their appointments. More specific information will be contained in the description provided to OMB as part of each change request.

#### **B.4 Tests of Procedures or Methods to be Undertaken**

For most methodological studies to be conducted under this generic clearance, potential instruments and procedures will be pre-tested with 9 or fewer individuals prior to collecting data from individuals. Results from these pre-tests will be incorporated into any final instruments and data collection materials before they are submitted to OMB.

#### **B.5 Individuals Consulted on Statistical Aspects and Individuals Analyzing Data**

Advice on statistical aspects of each individual data collection will be sought as each study is developed. Depending on the nature of the study, different individuals may be consulted. A list of individuals who may consult on one or more of the studies to be submitted under this generic clearance request is presented in Attachment 7. The specific individuals who consulted on a study will be included in the memo submitted to OMB for each study.