













Brief Screen for Substance Use

 Question	 Positive Screen Criteria
TOBACCO	
 Do you currently smoke or use any form of tobacco?	Positive Screen = Yes NEXT STEP: Explore readiness to quit. Offer assistance and/or arrange additional services.
ALCOHOL	
 Drinks per week: How many drinks do you have per week? 12 fl oz beer = 5 fl oz table wine = 1.5 fl oz liquor (vodka, tequila, etc.)  ~5% alcohol  ~12% alcohol  ~40% alcohol	Positive screen = More than 7 drinks per week for a female of any age or a male over age 65 Positive screen = More than 14 drinks per week for a male up to age 65 NEXT STEP: Consider further screening using the AUDIT or another screening tool. Provide a brief intervention and referral to treatment if indicated.
 Drinks per day: When was the last time you had 4 or more drinks per day? (Asked of all females and males over the age of 65) OR When was the last time you had 5 or more drinks per day? (Asked of males age 65 and younger)	Positive Screen = in the past year  NEXT STEP: Consider further screening using the AUDIT or another screening tool. Provide a brief intervention and referral to treatment if indicated.
MARIJUANA	
 In the past year, how many times have you used marijuana?	Positive screen = 1 or more times NEXT STEP: Explore quantity and frequency of use. Consider further screening using the CUDIT-R or another screening tool. Provide a brief intervention and referral to treatment if indicated.
OTHER DRUGS	
 In the past year, have you used or experimented with an illegal drug or a prescription drug for non-medical reasons?	Positive Screen = Yes NEXT STEP: Identify specific drugs, quantity and frequency of use. Consider further screening using the DAST or another screening tool. Provide a brief intervention and referral to treatment if indicated.
 OTHER POSITIVE SCREEN CRITERIA	
For those age 18 – 20	Any alcohol use
For pregnant women	Any alcohol use

References

Alcohol brief screening questions

Adapted from the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) developed and validated in primary care settings by the World Health Organization (WHO). The first three questions of the AUDIT (known as the AUDIT-C) have been widely used to initiate the alcohol screening process in adults (ages ≥ 18 years). Some validation work has been done in older adolescents. Some researchers recommend lower cut-offs to classify a positive screen in the U.S. because of higher concentrations of ethanol in US standard drinks and lower cut-offs for women compared to men. This is reflected in the Colorado brief screen and one reference below addresses this.

1. WHO AUDIT: https://www.who.int/substance_abuse/publications/audit/en/

Additional validation studies:

1. Bush, K., Kivlahan, D. R., McDonell, M. B., Fihn, S. D., & Bradley, K. A. (1998). The AUDIT alcohol consumption questions (AUDIT-C): an effective brief screening test for problem drinking. Ambulatory Care Quality Improvement Project (ACQUIP). Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test. *Arch Intern Med*, 158(16), 1789-1795.
2. Johnson, J. A., Lee, A., Vinson, D., & Seale, J. P. (2013). Use of AUDIT-based measures to identify unhealthy alcohol use and alcohol dependence in primary care: a validation study. *Alcohol Clin Exp Res*, 37 Suppl 1, E253-259. doi:10.1111/j.1530-0277.2012.01898.x
3. Babor, T. F., Higgins-Biddle, J. C., Saunders, J. B., & Monteiro, M. G. (2001). AUDIT: The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test: Guidelines for Use in Primary Care, 2nd Edition. Retrieved from <http://www.dass.stir.ac.uk/DRUGS/pdf/audit.pdf>

Single item drug screening question: The single item drug screen has been widely used to screen for all drug use (illicit/illegal and non-medical use of prescription or OTC drugs). It was originally adapted from the World Health Organization (WHO) Alcohol Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Tool (ASSIST). In recent years the SBIRT in Colorado program and others around the country have started to use a similar single question to screen for cannabis use now that cannabis is more commonly not illegal for adult use. The single item cannabis question is modeled after the single item drug screening question. One reference below addresses risk levels for cannabis use and the authors concluded that daily or near daily use of cannabis was most associated with a DSM-5 Cannabis Use Disorder. A response of at least one time in the past year is typically considered a positive response that warrants further assessment for any drug use.

Additional References

1. WHO ASSIST Working Group (2002). The Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST): development, reliability and feasibility. *Addiction*, 97 (9): 1183-1194.
2. Humeniuk RE, Ali RA, Babor TF, Farrell M, Formigoni ML, Jittiwutikarn J, Boerngen de Larcercda R, Ling W, Marsden J, Monteiro M, Nihwhatiwa S, Pal H, Poznyak V & Simon S (2008). Validation of the Alcohol Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST). *Addiction* 103(6): 1039-1047
3. Smith, P. C., Schmidt, S. M., Allensworth-Davies, D., & Saitz, R. (2010). A single-question screening test for drug use in primary care. *Arch Intern Med*, 170(13), 1155-1160. doi:10.1001/archinternmed.2010.140
4. Fischer, B., Russell, C., Sabioni, P., van den Brink, W., Le Foll, B., Hall, W., . . . Room, R. (2017). Lower-Risk Cannabis Use Guidelines: A Comprehensive Update of Evidence and Recommendations. *Am J Public Health*, 107(8), 1277. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2017.303818a
5. Quigley J, AAP COMMITTEE ON SUBSTANCE USE AND PREVENTION. Alcohol Use by Youth. *Pediatrics*. 2019;144(1): e20191356
6. Curry SJ, Krist AH, Owens DK, et al. ; US Preventive Services Task Force. Screening and behavioral counseling interventions to reduce unhealthy alcohol use in adolescents and adults: US Preventive Services Task Force recommendation statement. *JAMA* 2018;320:1899–909.
7. John C. Higgins-Biddle & Thomas F. Babor (2018) A review of the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT), AUDIT-C, and USAUDIT for screening in the United States: Past issues and future directions, *The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*, 44:6, 578-586, DOI: 10.1080/00952990.2018.1456545