

## **Video Interviewing: An Optimal Solution for a National Behavioral Health Survey**

By R. Suresh, Heidi Guyer, Christine Carr, Lilia Filippenko, Preethi Jayaram, Curry Spain, and Matthew Check

The Mental and Substance Use Disorders Prevalence Study (MDPS), funded by SAMHSA, is a pioneering study to estimate the prevalence of serious mental and substance use disorders in U.S. households, prisons, homeless shelters, and state psychiatric hospitals. MDPS hired clinicians with clinical training in mental health, including experience conducting the Structured Clinical Interview for the DSM-5 (SCID-5), to conduct clinical interviews. The clinical interview was programmed in Blaise and included a link to the NetSCID-5, a web-based version of the SCID-5. Video interviewing was planned for a large subset of the household sample, but the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to switch to this new paradigm for all the household clinical interviews and for clinical interviews conducted in half of the institutional facilities. It quickly became obvious that this mode of interviewing is the ideal mode for certain populations, such as those with mental health issues, regardless of whether they are in households or institutional settings. Furthermore, the additional benefit of being able to record the interviews for expert review improved the quality of the diagnoses and the data. We conducted over 3,700 video interviews and 1,600 phone interviews for this study, in addition to in-person interviews within the facility settings. In this presentation, we will describe the steps we took and the challenges we faced as we developed the systems to conduct these interviews by video, including scheduling the appointments, mechanisms for reviewing and updating the diagnoses in the NetSCID-5, and the benefits and drawbacks of video interviewing in general.