



**MIDUS Milwaukee Refresher 2:  
Final Field Report**

Prepared for:



The MIDUS Study  
University of Wisconsin–Madison  
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**Sample Description and Response Rate Report  
MIDUS Milwaukee Refresher 2 (P707)  
May 2025**

## **Overview**

The Midlife in the U.S. (MIDUS) is a national longitudinal study that investigates how the health and well-being of Americans is affected by work, relationships, health, economic turmoil, and personal outlooks, and to understand the factors that best protect health from midlife into old age.

Questions in this round of MIDUS will also help researchers better understand the health effects of the recent COVID-19 pandemic and how they may vary by age group.

The MIDUS Milwaukee Refresher 2 Study (referred to internally as MR2-MKE) was conducted by the University of Wisconsin Survey Center (UWSC) for Dr. Carol Ryff at the University of Wisconsin Institute on Aging.

The overall purpose of the MR2-MKE was to follow-up with the African-American oversample respondents who were interviewed between 2012-2013 to see how their lives have changed in 11 years. MIDUS Milwaukee Refresher 2 Study was the first follow-up survey interview with the Milwaukee African-Americans since these respondents initially joined the study in 2012-2013. Some portions of the MR2-MKE interview were very similar to the 2012 interview, while other survey items were new or different. Like the 2012 interview, this follow-up interview was conducted as a computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI) in the respondent's home or a nearby neutral location such as a library study room. When possible, interviewers traveled to respondents living outside of Wisconsin to conduct the interview in-person. When travel was not feasible, telephone interviews were attempted with the respondents who were no longer living in Wisconsin.

At the conclusion of the CAPI interview, field interviewers handed over a self-administered questionnaire (SAQ) for the respondent to complete at their convenience. After completing the SAQ, the UWSC called respondents to ask them to complete a telephone interview (internally referred to as the Cognitive interview or the Telephone Assisted Cognitive Testing (TACT) interview).

## **University of Wisconsin Survey Center**

Founded in 1987, the University of Wisconsin Survey Center (UWSC) serves the survey research needs of a wide variety of clients including faculty, staff, and administration at the University of Wisconsin; faculty and staff at other universities; federal, state, and local governmental agencies; and not-for-profit organizations. A department in the College of Letters and Science of the University of Wisconsin—Madison, the UWSC provides a complete range of survey research capabilities. The mission of the Survey Center is to assist researchers by providing the highest quality survey research services.

Associate Professor Jen Dykema is the Faculty Director of the UWSC, and Kelly Elver is the Associate Director. Augie Salick and Chris Schlapper were involved in instrument and CAPI tools programming. Karen Zoladz was the Lead Project Director.

## **Instruments**

### *CAPI Interview*

The CAPI interview for this project was conducted using a computer-assisted personal interviewing system (CAPI). The CAPI software employed by the UWSC is CASES 5.6 provided by the Computer-Assisted Survey Methods Program at the University of California-Berkeley.

The CASES program provides a comprehensive range of computer assisted interviewing tools. As a fully-featured CATI package, CASES has all the programs necessary to install sample (including importing pre-existing data into the sample records), prepare a data collection instrument, monitor survey progress, automatically send into the field those cases that require calling at a specific time or date (i.e. automatic call scheduling), code and clean data, produce reports, and output data into rectangular files for analysis.

Using the CASES program, the text of the survey appears question by question on a computer screen for the interviewer to read to the respondent. Routing through the interview is based on skip logic pre-programmed into the computer. Question wording may be adapted according to answers given previously in the interview. The system allows for pre-coded questions, open-ended questions, and combinations of the two. In addition, the computer allows only valid responses to be entered; when an invalid response is entered, the computer asks the interviewer to reenter the response.

The CAPI instrument consisted of questions about COVID-19 experiences, health, including hip and waist measurements, education, occupation and industry, marriage, health insurance, finances, social networks, parents' health, children and household members, caregiving, living arrangements, community involvement, race and ethnicity, discrimination, life satisfaction, and contact information of family and friends to help us contact the participant in the future. The CAPI instrument also included a request to access Medicare or Medicaid records and a section for interviewer observations. Showcards were used for items with long or complicated answer options.

A special feature of this study instrument was a section of questions administered via ACASI (Audio in Computer-Assisted Self-Interview). These sensitive questions on discrimination were pre-recorded in a female voice and then loaded into the instrument as .wav files. These files played through headphones attached to the laptop as respondents entered their answers on the keyboard. Respondents had the option of turning off the audio for the answer text, however the question text remained on at all times. Audio for the answer text could be turned on or off at each item. The on / off audio settings were logged by the CASES program.

UWSC documented changes to the instrument in a Word document that was delivered to MIDUS with the final data delivery.

Extensive in-house testing and debugging was done of the CAPI instrument but there was no formal pretest.

The average length of the interview was 170 minutes, with a mode of 188 minutes. (Note: this average was calculated from timers in the instrument. It is the amount of time interviewers spent in the interview instrument itself, but not total time spent with the respondent from start to finish. This average includes situations where the interviewer was in the instrument during the consent process. Also, this average includes situations where the interviewer might have encountered a technical problem while in the instrument. As a result, this average may be considered slightly inflated. This mean and mode does not include the partial interviews.)

### *Self-Administered Questionnaire*

A 44-page Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ) was fielded in this study using the 2012 MIDUS Milwaukee Refresher Oversample SAQ as a starting point. Only minor wording changes were made.

## *Cognitive Telephone Interview*

The Cognitive Telephone Interview or the Telephone Assisted Cognitive Testing (TACT) interview for this project was conducted using a computer-assisted telephone interviewing system (CATI). The CATI software employed by the UWSC is CASES 5.6 provided by the Computer-Assisted Survey Methods Program at the University of California-Berkeley.

To the extent possible, the TACT instruments and protocols for MR2-MKE replicated those used during the 2012 MIDUS MKE Refresher Oversample. In 2012, in response to the increasing prevalence of cellular telephones over the years, a method to measure latency due to technology was added. This measure, the Metronome Count, was again conducted before and after the Red/Green Task, to account for response variance due to technology, both between and within calls. New for the MR2-MKE round, an additional cognitive assessment, The Montreal Cognitive Assessment adapted for telephone administration, MOCA-Blind, was added to the instrument. The MOCA-Blind administered immediately after the TACT, generally within the same telephone call.

The Cognitive Interview utilized the same instrument as the MR2 National sample, which was programmed and tested in Fall of 2022. MR2-MKE sample was fielded in July 2023.

For additional information about the Cognitive Telephone Interview, please see a separate report prepared by Karen Zoladz.

## **Sample Description**

The production sample included all respondents who completed the baseline interview in 2012, except for those determined to be deceased during the intervening years. A total of N=473 were fielded in this effort. The sample was provided by the MIDUS client and imported into UWSC databases.

Cases were fielded into two batches:

- Batch 1: N=330; fielded on 6/16/2023
- Batch 2: N=140; fielded on 7/24/2023

## **Tracing**

UWSC created an Access database, referred to as the Project Operations Database (POD), to store respondent contact information. This database was used by UWSC Tracking and Locating staff to update contact information for respondents as needed. The database had the ability to add new telephone or address information while at the same time keeping a record of old information.

Prior to mailing the advance letter to respondents, all cases were traced for updated contact information. If an advance letter was returned to UWSC, the database was updated with this information and the respondent was traced again.

## *During the CAPI Phase*

If it was determined by the field interviewer that an address or telephone number was no longer good, the database was updated, and the respondent was traced for new information.

In addition, if a field interviewer was told by an informant that the respondent was deceased or incarcerated, the respondent would be traced to attempt to confirm this information.

### *During the SAQ Phase*

Tracing commenced for MR2-MKE when SAQ booklets were returned to UWSC as undeliverable. The Project Operations Database was then updated with any new information, including address and phone number.

During the SAQ and Cognitive interview phases, the tracing department also handled cases where the incentive checks for completing were returned undeliverable. The respondent was traced for new contact information so that the check could be resent.

### *During the Cognitive Interviewing Phase*

During the Cognitive Interview, cases were sent for tracing when numbers were bad or when informants reported respondents no longer lived at the number. After 15 calls without contact, all cases were sent for tracing. If the Tracking and Locating Department found better information, the case was sent for further calling. If no better information was found, staff reviewed notes from the in-home interviewer for better phone information. If new numbers were not identified, the case was held and retraced again.

## **Study Design and Field Procedures and Protocols**

Interviewing for MR2-MKE occurred from to June 20, 2023 – April 19, 2024.

UWSC employed 11 field interviewers. All 473 cases were fielded in the first two months of the field period in an effort to maximize efficiency and increase the time available for multiple contacts on each case.

Some respondents lived outside of the Wisconsin area. When there were groups of respondents in a close area, the UWSC had an interviewer travel to their city to conduct in the interview in-person. If the UWSC was not able to complete the interview in-person, they attempted to complete the interview by telephone. For these telephone interviews, UWSC sent a physical copy of the showcards and a tape measure for the hip and waist measurements to the respondent prior to the interview.

### **Field Phase 1: CAPI Interview**

Respondents were sent an advance letter to introduce this round of the study and inform respondents that interviewers would be contacting them shortly. Shortly after, interviewers attempted to contact respondents to schedule and conduct the interview in-person. Interviewers called respondents, and as needed, made doorstep visits to respondents, sent text messages and email messages to respondents, called informants, and made doorstep visits to informants. At the end of the CAPI interview, the interviewer gave the respondent a \$75 cash incentive and the 44-page self-administered questionnaire (SAQ) with a postage-paid return envelope.

In January 2024, the post-incentive for the CAPI interview was increased from \$75 to \$150 cash. Non-responders were sent a letter to inform them of the increased incentive amount.

### **Field Phase 2: Reminder Call for SAQ**

About 34 days after the CAPI interview was completed, reminder calls were made to respondents who did not return their completed SAQ. During these reminder calls, the interviewer encouraged the respondent to complete the SAQ and could also initiate a re-send of the SAQ booklet, return envelope, or both, if needed.

### **Field Phase 3: Return Visit for SAQ and Cognitive Interview**

About 50 days after the CAPI interview was completed, Doorstep visits were made to respondents who did not return their completed SAQ, regardless of whether we reached the respondent for a reminder call. At this visit, interviewers offered assistance to complete the SAQ. They also invited respondents to complete the Cognitive Telephone Interview on the spot, or to schedule an appointment for the Cognitive Telephone Interview. If the SAQ or Cognitive Interview was completed on the spot, the interviewer gave the respondent their incentives in cash.

#### **Cognitive Telephone Interview**

As soon as the SAQ was completed, the case flowed to the Cognitive Telephone Interview conducted by the UWSC CATI Lab, unless this interview was completed on the spot during a Return Visit.

#### **Advance Letters**

To introduce respondents to this round of the study, advance letters were mailed to all respondents approximately three days prior to the start of field period. In this way, interviewers were not doing “cold-calls” to respondents.

The letter itself was personalized, described the MIDUS study and explained that an interviewer would be contacting them shortly about an in-person interview. The letter included a \$5 bill.

#### **Sequencing**

Like the MIDUS Milwaukee Refresher effort, the MKE-2 effort was complicated to field due to the fact that each case followed a unique trajectory or timeline, anchored by the CAPI complete date. About a month into the field period, UWSC was managing CAPI interviews, mail surveys, and cognitive telephone interviews concurrently. Some respondents went on to complete their mail survey within days of finishing the CAPI interview, while others took weeks to complete it. This delayed their fielding into the Cognitive telephone effort by as many weeks. The basic sequence of data collection is as follows:

- 1). A respondent was sent an advance letter telling them about the MIDUS Milwaukee study and that they would receive a call from an interviewer to schedule an interview.
- 2). After attempting to reach the respondent by phone two times, the field interviewer made doorstep visits alternating with email and text messages when available, while still continuing to try to reach the respondent by phone. The interviewer also tried to reach informants who might know how to get in touch with respondents.
- 3). When the CAPI interview was completed, the interviewer presented the respondent with a sealed envelope containing \$75 in cash. The respondent opened the envelope in the interviewer’s presence to confirm the amount and signed to acknowledge receipt of the cash. As noted previously, starting in January 2024, the cash amount was increased to \$150.
- 4). Once the respondent received the cash incentive, the interviewer handed over a 44-page SAQ booklet, a letter explaining how to fill it out, and a postage-paid stamped envelope for the respondent to send the completed survey back in.
- 5). When the respondent sent back their completed SAQ, they were mailed a check for \$50 within one week.
- 6). Approximately two weeks after the payment for the mail survey was sent, cases were fielded for the Cognitive telephone interview.

7). An additional \$50 check was mailed to the respondent within one week of completing the Cognitive telephone interview.

8). One week after the first SAQ booklet was handed-over to the respondent, a postcard was sent to encourage the respondent to fill it out and send it back.

9). If a respondent did not return the first SAQ within 3 weeks of receiving it, a second SAQ was sent, with all the same materials as the first booklet but with a shorter, more direct cover letter.

10). If a respondent had not returned their completed SAQ within 2 weeks of the second booklet mailing, they were put into the Reminder Call effort, where a CAPI interviewer would call the respondent to encourage them to complete the SAQ. In most cases, the same CAPI interviewer who completed the CAPI interview with this respondent would make the reminder call. The interviewer could also flag an SAQ or return envelope to be mailed to the respondent if the respondent was missing one or both of these items. The interviewer would attempt to reach the respondent for a reminder call over the course of 12 days.

11). Whether or not the interviewer reached the respondent for the Reminder Call, 4 weeks after the second booklet mailing, the case was put into the Return Visit effort, where a CAPI interviewer would make a doorstep visit to the respondent's home to inquire about the SAQ. If needed, the CAPI interviewer could supply the respondent with a third copy of the booklet, take and mail back a completed SAQ, or assist in the completion of the SAQ. If the interviewer received a completed booklet during the course of their visit, they were able to hand over the \$50 incentive in cash. In addition, the interviewer attempted to facilitate the telephone cognitive survey by calling the UWSC CATI Lab and to prepare a specially-trained CATI interviewer to conduct the interview. If the cognitive interview was completed during this visit, the CAPI interviewer was able to hand over an additional \$50 incentive in cash.

12). Once the Return Visit effort ended, any respondent who had not yet returned their completed SAQ flowed to the Cognitive telephone interview effort.

### **Non-Response and Refusal Protocol**

To enhance study recall and to address possible concerns about legitimacy, interviewers attempted to leave their business card and/or a goodie-bag with non-responsive or reluctant households. The goodie-bag contained the MIDUS Milwaukee brochure, a "Sorry I missed you..." note, and a pack of LifeSavers. If the non-response or reluctance continued, the case was given a "cooling off" period of at least two weeks. Eventually, a CAPI Supervisor would re-assign the case to a different CAPI interviewer. Some attention was paid to re-assigning the case to an interviewer of different race or gender.

In addition, on January 12, 2024, the CAPI post-incentive amount was increased from \$75 to \$150. Non-responders were sent a letter informing them of the increase.

### **SAQ Refusal at the end of the CAPI interview**

If the respondent refused the SAQ during the handover at the end of the CAPI interview, the interviewer coded a flag variable 2114 SAQ ONLY REFUSAL to synch to the mail database. The case was then pushed to phase 3, skipping phase 2. Thus, the protocol was as follows:

- These cases **DID NOT** receive the SAQ2 or Reminder Postcard mailings.
- These cases **DID NOT** receive the reminder call.
- These cases **DID** receive the return visit.
- These cases **DID** receive the SAQ reminder in Cog if otherwise eligible.
- These cases **DID** receive the SAQ4 mailing.



### SAQ Refusal during the Reminder Call

If the respondent refused to complete the SAQ during the reminder call, the interviewer coded a flag variable 2114 to synch to the mail database. The case was then pushed to phase 4, skipping phase 3. Thus, the protocol was as follows:

- These cases **DID NOT** receive the return visit.
- These cases **DID** receive the SAQ reminder in Cog if otherwise eligible.
- These cases **DID** receive the SAQ4 mailing.

### SAQ Refusal during the Return Visit

If the respondent refused to complete the SAQ during the return visit, the interviewer coded a flag variable 2114 SAQ ONLY REFUSAL to synch to the mail database. Thus, the protocol was as follows:

- These cases **DID** receive the SAQ reminder in Cog if otherwise eligible.
- These cases **DID** receive the SAQ4 mailing.

### SAQ Refusal during Cog Interview

If during the SAQ reminder in the Cog interview, the respondent refused the SAQ, the interviewer coded a flag variable 2112 KNOWN RESPONDENT REFUSAL to synch to the mail database.

- These cases **DID** receive the SAQ4 mailing.

### SAQ Refusal as a Mail Return

If the respondent returned an SAQ in the mail as a refusal (including explicit refusals and blank returns), the UWSC mail and data entry department coded as a refusal. Thus, the protocol was as follows:

- These cases **DID NOT** receive the SAQ2 or Reminder Postcard mailings, if still eligible.
- These cases **DID NOT** receive the reminder call, if still eligible.
- These cases **DID** receive the return visit.
- These cases **DID** receive the SAQ reminder in Cog if otherwise eligible.
- These cases **DID NOT** receive the SAQ4 mailing.

### **Respondent Incentives**

All sample members received \$5 cash in the advance letter. Respondents then received \$75 or \$150 in cash after completing the CAPI interview. They were then mailed a \$50 check after the UWSC received their completed SAQ. Once the Cognitive telephone interview was completed, the UWSC mailed an additional \$50 check. The check mailed following the SAQ and Cognitive interview provided the MIDUS Milwaukee toll-free number so that respondents could call if they did not have the ability to cash the check. In those instances, the UWSC worked to issue them a USPS money order to be cashed at any USPS location with no fee.

If the SAQ and/or Cognitive telephone interview were completed during a Return Visit, the CAPI interviewer handed over the incentives in cash, on the spot.

In addition to the cash incentives, respondents were given a set of earbuds to use during the ACASI module and to keep as thank you. The earbuds came in a clear plastic case that had the MIDUS logo printed on it along with MIDUS Milwaukee toll-free phone number.

## **CAPI Interviewer Training**

UWSC drew from an existing pool of CAPI interviewers who had worked on previous projects to fill two of the eleven interviewer slots for the MIDUS Milwaukee project. The remaining nine slots were filled with new hires that had other previous interviewing experience.

Interviewers received 40 hours of training that included basic standards and procedures, field logistics, specific MIDUS issues, and MIDUS Milwaukee instrument training. Interviewers learned how cases would be fielded, how to contact respondents, how to take physical measurements for the health module of the instrument, fieldwork guidelines, and protocol for refusals. They also completed a “start-to-finish certification” of the main CAPI instrument during which they demonstrated mastery of basic interviewing skills, as well as mastery of the MIDUS Milwaukee protocols. Interviewers were given time to practice the interview on their own and were instructed to complete practice cases before they began to visit actual respondents.

The main CAPI interviewer training for MIDUS Milwaukee took place at UW-Madison’s Pyle Center from June 12-16, 2023. Dr. Carol Ryff attended a session of the training and was helpful in motivating the interviewers and providing them with sufficient background information and talking points for persuading participants. She talked about the previous wave of data collection, the purpose and design of the study, and the goals for the Milwaukee follow-up effort in particular.

An additional CAPI interviewer training was held from September 11-15, 2023.

On July 27, 2023, the UWSC hosted a 1-hour webinar for all interviewers to be trained in the Reminder Call effort. Interviewers were trained on this section of the instrument, protocols for contacting respondents and handling refusals, and were given time to practice these calls. Each interviewer completed a mock call with a field supervisor before they began to call actual respondents.

UWSC invited interviewers back to UW-Madison’s Pyle Center on October 5, 2023, for an in-person training on the Return Visit effort. Interviewers were trained on this section of the instrument, protocols for assisting with completion of the SAQ, and facilitating the Cognitive Telephone interview. Interviewers were given time to practice the visit on their own and with volunteers and completed a “certification” to demonstrate mastery of this part of the MR2-MKE effort.

## **Interviewer Observation Questions**

In order to minimize burden on the respondent while hosting the interviewer in their home, interviewer observation questions were programmed into the CAPI instrument as a separate module that could be completed by the interviewer at a later time.

The interviewer observation items were the same as those asked in 2012. They contained some open-ended items where interviewers stated their observations about the respondent, the household, and the neighborhood where the household was located. While interviewers were trained to be as objective as possible when answering questions on the form, some subjective views may have crept in.

## **Quality Control**

At the beginning of the CAPI interview, respondents were asked for their consent to have the interview recorded. The audio-recordings were used only for quality control conducted by the CAPI Supervisor or a specially-trained UWSC staff member fluent in CAPI interviewing protocols. QC was conducted on approximately 10% of all completed CAPI interviews. Interviewers were provided with timely feedback on their administration of the CAPI interview and their adherence to protocols.

## **Verification Interviews**

UWSC employed “verification interviews” to follow-up on a random selection of at least 10% of each interviewer’s completed cases. A trained specialist at UWSC called respondents to confirm key details about the circumstances of the completed interview, and that the respondent had been treated with the utmost respect and care. These verifications ensured that protocols and procedures apart from what could be heard in the audio recordings were being followed in the field.

## **Weekly Conference Calls**

Interviewers were required to attend a weekly conference call with the Field Supervisors. This provided interviewers with an opportunity to interact with project staff and colleagues as well as to debrief and stay up-to-date with protocol and procedures.

## **Data Entry Protocol and Staff Training**

Data entry for the MIDUS Milwaukee SAQs began in August 2023. The SAQ booklet was 44-pages long and included various types of formatted questions, making them more complex to enter. Following the previous MIDUS SAQ data entry protocols, each booklet was first reviewed by an “editor” to uncover and resolve any issues that could cause data entry error. Editors were trained on how to resolve the most common problem issues, such as respondents who gave multiple answers, selected answers that fell between actual response categories, or followed skip patterns incorrectly.

Editors and data entry staff underwent 2 hours of MIDUS-specific training to make them familiar with the instrument, train them in the specific protocols set for the project, and give them an opportunity to ask questions about the data entry process. Each booklet was blind double-entered by two different data entry staff members. When a discrepancy between the first pass and the second was found by the computer, the data entry person was alerted to the difference in responses, and they then determined the correct answer (with help from an editor if needed) and then made the correction to the error, either from the first or second pass.

## **Interim and Final Data Deliveries**

### *Delivery of Contact Information*

The UWSC provided monthly deliveries of cases back to MIDUS throughout the field period. These deliveries included cases that were no longer being worked by the UWSC. Generally, they included cases for which the CAPI interview, SAQ booklet, and Cognitive interview were all completed. The UWSC retained these “fully complete” cases for an additional 5-weeks after the final check was sent to minimize instances of check returns after the case ownership returned to MIDUS. This file contained a variety of information needed at IOA, such as respondent

contact information, demographic variables, interviewer assessments, call notes, and mailing and completion dates. This provided IOA with information to use in assigning completed cases to other projects.

### *Delivery of Interim Data Files*

In August 2023, about two months after production calling began, UWSC delivered an interim data set of the first 60 cases to complete the CAPI interview, so that IOA staff could review and be sure all variables were being asked correctly. Cognitive interview data for the MR2-MKE effort was delivered every two weeks to researchers at Brandeis during the field period.

### *Final Data Deliveries*

Final data delivery for the Milwaukee CAPI data took place in November 2024. The final SAQ data was delivered in May 2025. These deliveries consisted of 328 CAPI cases and 327 SAQs. Final data delivery for MR2-MKE Cognitive interview effort occurred in March 2025.

## **Response Rates**

**Table 1. Response Rates Across Data Collection Phases**

Type of Sample	Main CAPI Survey	SAQ Survey	Cognitive Survey
MKE-2	70.9%	73.6%	71.6%

Above response rates reported as AAPOR 1 calculation.

205 respondents participated in all three phases (CAPI, SAQ, Cognitive)

37 respondents participated in CAPI and SAQ but not Cognitive

29 respondents participated in CAPI and Cognitive but not SAQ

56 respondents participated in CAPI only

The UWSC completed a total of 327 interviews, 1 partial interview and 2 mortality cognitive closeout interviews: 301 in-person, and 29 by telephone. The overall raw response rate for the survey is 69% (327 completes / 473 cases fielded).

Table 2 includes the sample disposition for all sample members by category.

AAPOR Response Rates 1 and 2 are reported below. A detailed summary of the contact outcomes is available in Table 3.

**Table 2. Overall Sample Disposition (N=473)**

Final Disposition	Cases
Completed Interview (Category 1)	327
Partial Interview (Category 1)	1
Eligible, non-interview (Category 2)	85
Unknown Eligibility, non-interview (Category 3)	48
Not Eligible (Category 4)	12
<b>Totals</b>	<b>473</b>

### AAPOR Response Rate 1

# of completed interviews

$$\frac{\text{# of completed interviews}}{((\text{Complete interviews} + \text{Partial interviews}) + (\text{Eligible, non-interview}) + (\text{Unknown Eligibility, non-interview}))}$$

$$\frac{327}{(327 + 1 + 85 + 48 = 461)}$$

$$327 / 461 = 70.9\%$$

### AAPOR Response Rate 2

# of completed interviews + # of partial interviews

$$\frac{\text{# of completed interviews} + \text{# of partial interviews}}{((\text{Complete interviews} + \text{Partial interviews}) + (\text{Eligible, non-interview}) + (\text{Unknown Eligibility, non-interview}))}$$

$$\frac{327 + 1}{(327 + 1 + 85 + 48 = 461)}$$

$$328 / 461 = 71.1\%$$

**Table 3. Contact Dispositions by Specific Outcome**

Final Disposition	AAPOR Code	Cases
<b>Interview (Category 1)</b>		
Complete	1110	327
Partial Complete	1200	1
<b>Eligible, non-interview (Category 2)</b>		
Household-level refusal	2111	5
Respondent refusal	2112	30
Respondent away or unavailable during field period	2250	50
<b>Unknown eligibility, non-interview (Category 3)</b>		
Non-contact	2200	48
<b>Not eligible (Category 4)</b>		
Confirmed Deceased	2310	3
Mentally or physically unable	2320	4
Incarcerated	2322	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>473</b>

**Table 4. Number of Refusals to Audio Recording for QC Purposes Consent Item**

Item	# of Refusals
Recording interview	25

**Table 5. Final Disposition for MR2-MKE SAQ Phase**

<b>SAQ Disposition Code</b>	<b>SAQ Disposition Description</b>	<b>N</b>
1100	Completed SAQ	242
3300	No Good Address	1
Blank / No code	No Response	84
<b>Total</b>		<b>327</b>
	<b>AAPOR 1 Response Rate</b>	<b>73.6%</b>

**Table 6. Final Disposition for MR2-MKE Cognitive Interview Phase**

<b>Cog Disposition Code</b>	<b>Disposition Description</b>	<b>N</b>
1100	Complete	234
1200	Usable partial	1
2111	Refusal, household	7
2112	Refusal, respondent	14
2360	Global refusal	1
2210	Never available	65
2302	No good phone	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>327</b>
	<b>AAPOR 1 Response Rate</b>	<b>71.6%</b>

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**Appendix A**  
**MIDUS MILWAUKEE REFESHER 2**  
LETTERS AND MATERIALS

## CAPI Advance Letter

Date

Respondent Name

Street Address

City, State Zip

Phone:

Dear Respondent Name,

Thank you for your past participation in *Midlife in the United States (MIDUS)*, sponsored by the National Institute on Aging. With your help MIDUS is teaching us a great deal about the factors that influence health and well-being as people age from early adulthood to later life (see [midus.wisc.edu](http://midus.wisc.edu)). With new support from the National Institute on Aging, we are carrying MIDUS forward, with a focus on how COVID-19 may have affected the lives of American adults.

In the next few weeks, an interviewer from the University of Wisconsin Survey Center will contact you to invite you to participate in this new in-person interview. This interview can be scheduled at your convenience or completed in more than one visit. After completing the in-person interview, you will be given a paper questionnaire to fill out and return in the mail. Participants will then be called for follow-up telephone interview and may be invited to participate in further MIDUS research.

**As a token of appreciation for participating in this new round of the study,  
you will be given up to \$175.**

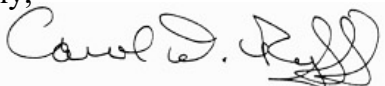
Those who complete the in-person interview will receive \$75 in appreciation. Those completing the paper questionnaire will receive an additional \$50, and those completing the follow-up telephone interview will receive an additional \$50. *Because you are an original member of MIDUS, your participation is critical to the continued success of this study.*

Your participation is voluntary and confidential, and you may choose not to answer any questions that make you feel uncomfortable. There are no substantial risks involved in participating. At no time will your name or identifying information be attached to survey results.

**Please review your address and phone number at the top of this letter and call us toll-free at 1-888-811-5898** with any updated information about how best to reach you. If you have any questions about the study, contact the University of Wisconsin Survey Center at 1-888-811-5898 or [MIDUS@wisc.edu](mailto:MIDUS@wisc.edu).

We very much look forward to talking with you.

Sincerely,



Carol D. Ryff, Ph.D.

Principal Investigator, MIDUS

Director, University of Wisconsin Institute on Aging



## Refusal Aversion Letter

Date

Respondent Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip

### MIDUS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Dear Respondent Name,

We recently tried calling you to ask for your help with *Midlife in the United States (MIDUS)*, a study about American adults that we are conducting at the University of Wisconsin. At the time we called, we were not able to interview you. We are writing today to ask for your continued participation in this important study.

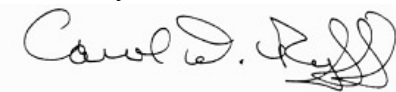
MIDUS is a scientific study funded by the National Institute on Aging, part of the National Institutes of Health, and is one of the largest studies of American life of its kind. It is one of the few studies that looks at how various aspects of adult life affect health and well-being at midlife and beyond.

We realize your time is valuable and thank you for the help you have given us in the past. Many people who have participated told us that they find the interview interesting and enjoyable. It is important that we speak to individuals with many different experiences and of many ages and backgrounds so that the study represents American adult life. As a token of our appreciation, we will send you \$75 after the interview.

**If you have any questions about participating or would like to call in to be connected to an interviewer, please contact the University of Wisconsin Survey Center toll-free at 1-888-811-5898 or MIDUS@wisc.edu.**

We are happy to answer any questions or concerns you might have. One of our interviewers will be contacting you within the next few weeks.

Sincerely,



Carol D. Ryff, PhD  
Principal Investigator, MIDUS  
Director, University of Wisconsin Institute on Aging

## SAQ Handover Cover Letter

### GUIDE TO THE MIDUS PAPER QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you for recently participating in an interview for the *MIDUS (Midlife in the US)*, a study conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison with support from the National Institutes of Health.

We have enclosed a questionnaire with additional questions about your health, work, and other parts of your life. Your answers in this questionnaire are very important to the success of our research. We do ask that you fill out the survey and return it within the next few days. Take your time and answer the questions as completely as possible. You do not need to fill it out all at one time — feel free to take a break and come back to it later.

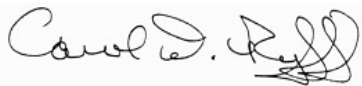
**As thanks, you will receive a check for \$50  
after completing and returning this questionnaire.**

Directions on how to complete the survey questions are inside the front cover of the booklet. When you are finished, you can use the enclosed postage-paid envelope to return the questionnaire to us. You can place the survey, enclosed in the postage-paid envelope, into any outgoing mailbox or have your regular postal worker take it with your other outgoing mail.

As always, your participation is voluntary and confidential, and you can choose not to answer any questions you are uncomfortable with. There are no substantial risks involved in participating. At no time will your name or identifying information be attached to survey results. If you have questions about your rights as a research participant or have complaints about the research study or study team, call the confidential research compliance line at 1-833-652-2506. University of Wisconsin-Madison staff not part of the study team will work with you to address concerns and assist in resolving any complaints.

**If you have any questions about the study, please contact the University of Wisconsin Survey Center toll-free at 1-888-811-5898 or MIDUS@wisc.edu.**

Sincerely,



Carol D. Ryff, PhD  
Principal Investigator, MIDUS  
Director, University of Wisconsin Institute on Aging

## SAQ Reminder Postcard

Dear MIDUS Participant:

Recently, you participated in an in-person interview for the *MIDUS (Midlife in the US) National Study of Health and Well-Being*. At that time, we gave you a questionnaire to fill out and return to us.

If you have already completed and sent this questionnaire back to us, thank you. Your check for \$50 will be arriving within the next few days. If not, please fill out and return the booklet as soon as possible. Your opinions and experiences are critically important to the success of the MIDUS study.

**If you did not receive a copy of the questionnaire, or it got misplaced, please call the University of Wisconsin Survey Center toll free at 1-888-811-5898 to request another copy.**

Thank you for your help!



Carol D. Ryff, Ph.D.  
Principal Investigator, MIDUS  
Director, University of Wisconsin Ins

## SAQ 2<sup>nd</sup> Mailing

Respondent Name  
Street Address  
City, State Zip

DATE

Dear Respondent Name,

Several weeks ago, one of our interviewers left you with a paper questionnaire that asked about some of the same topics as the in-person interview you completed for the ***MIDUS (Midlife in the US) National Study of Health and Well-being.***

I am writing to encourage you to fill out your questionnaire and to return it as soon as you can. In case you misplaced the first copy, I have enclosed another copy of the survey, along with a postage-paid, self-addressed envelope you should use to return the questionnaire to us. If you started filling out the first survey, please continue with that booklet and discard this second copy.

If you have already returned your survey, thank you! You should be receiving a check for \$50 within the next few days.

The MIDUS study is designed to help us learn more about how adults in the U.S. are coping with the challenges of adult life and aging and the factors that contribute to a healthy adult life. You are one of only a few hundred participants in the Milwaukee area selected to help us learn more about the health and life experiences of African American adults and your answers to this questionnaire are very important to our research.

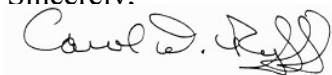
You do not need to fill out the questionnaire all at one time — feel free to take a break and come back to it later. Take your time and answer the questions as completely as possible.

This study is conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison with support from the National Institutes of Health. Your participation is voluntary and confidential, and you can choose not to answer any questions you are uncomfortable with. There are no substantial risks involved in participating. At no time will your name or identifying information be attached to survey results. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant or have complaints about the research study or study team, call the confidential research compliance line at 1-833-652-2506. University of Wisconsin-Madison staff not part of the study team will work with you to address concerns and assist in resolving any complaints.

**If you have any questions about the study, please contact the University of Wisconsin Survey Center toll-free at 1-888-811-5898 or MIDUS@wisc.edu.**

Thank you again for continuing to participate.

Sincerely,



Carol D. Ryff, PhD  
Principal Investigator, MIDUS  
Director, University of Wisconsin Institute on Aging

## SAQ3 Upon Request – Cover Letter

DATE

Respondent Name

Street Address

City, State Zip

Dear Respondent Name,


As requested, here is an additional copy of the questionnaire booklet. Your continuing participation in this survey helps us gather important information about the factors that contribute to a healthy adult life. Directions on how to complete the questionnaires are found inside the front cover. Take your time and feel free to take breaks along the way. We request that you answer the questions as completely as possible and return the booklet within a few days **in the postage-paid, self-addressed envelope provided**. As thanks, you will receive a **\$50** check after completing and returning the questionnaire booklet.

Your participation is voluntary and confidential, and you can withdraw at any time. There are no substantial risks involved in participating. At no time will your name or identifying information be attached to survey results. If you have questions about your rights as a research participant or have complaints about the research study or study team, call the confidential research compliance line at 1-833-652-2506. University of Wisconsin-Madison staff not part of the study team will work with you to address concerns and assist in resolving any complaints.

**If you have any questions about the study, please contact the University of Wisconsin Survey Center toll-free at 1-888-811-5898 or MIDUS@wisc.edu.**

Thank you again for participating.

Sincerely,



Carol D. Ryff, Ph.D.

Principal Investigator, MIDUS

Director, University of Wisconsin Institute on Aging

## SAQ Thank You Letter

DATE

Respondent Name

Street Address

City, State Zip

Dear Respondent Name,

Thank you very much for completing and returning your mail questionnaire for ***MIDUS (Midlife in the US)***, a study conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison with support from the National Institutes of Health. As an expression of our appreciation, we have enclosed a check for \$50.

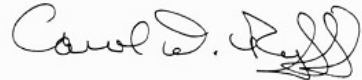
Within the next few weeks, an interviewer from the University of Wisconsin Survey Center will call you for a telephone interview. This interview is different from the first as it involves listening to words and numbers and trying to remember them. Some parts of the interview can be challenging because we have purposely made certain memory tasks difficult. This helps us understand the different ways people think and answer questions. This interview can be done at a time convenient for you when you are free from distractions. We understand your time is valuable so as a token of our thanks we will send you a check for another \$50 after you complete this telephone interview.

As always, your participation is voluntary and confidential, and you can choose not to answer any questions you are uncomfortable with. There are no substantial risks involved in participating. At no time will your name or identifying information be attached to survey results. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant or have complaints about the research study or study team, call the confidential research compliance line at 1-833-652-2506. University of Wisconsin-Madison staff not part of the study team will work with you to address concerns and assist in resolving any complaints.

**If you have any questions about the study, please contact the University of Wisconsin Survey Center toll-free at 1-888-811-5898 or [MIDUS@wisc.edu](mailto:MIDUS@wisc.edu).**

Thank you again for your help on this important study.

Sincerely,



Carol D. Ryff, PhD

Principal Investigator, MIDUS

Director, University of Wisconsin Institute on Aging

**SAQ Thank You Letter (If Cognitive interview is already completed)**

DATE

Respondent Name  
Street Address  
City, State Zip

Dear Respondent Name,

Thank you very much for completing and returning your mail questionnaire for ***MIDUS (Midlife in the US)***, a study conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison with support from the National Institutes of Health. As an expression of our appreciation, we have enclosed a check for \$50.

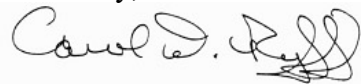
Your continuing participation in this study helps the National Institute on Aging to gather important information about how adults in the U.S. are coping with the challenges of adult life and aging and the factors that contribute to a healthy adult life.

As always, your participation is voluntary and confidential, and you can choose not to answer any questions you are uncomfortable with. There are no substantial risks involved in participating. At no time will your name or identifying information be attached to survey results. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant or have complaints about the research study or study team, call the confidential research compliance line at 1-833-652-2506. University of Wisconsin-Madison staff not part of the study team will work with you to address concerns and assist in resolving any complaints.

**If you have any questions about the study, please contact the University of Wisconsin Survey Center toll-free at 1-888-811-5898 or MIDUS@wisc.edu.**

Thank you again for your help on this important study.

Sincerely,



Carol D. Ryff, PhD  
Principal Investigator, MIDUS  
Director, University of Wisconsin Institute on Aging

**CAPI by CATI Pre-Interview Letter (For interviews conducted by telephone)**

Date

Respondent Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Dear Respondent Name,

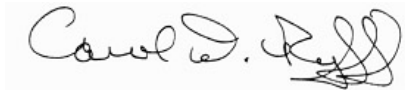
Thank you for scheduling a telephone interview with us! Included in this envelope are a few materials you will need during the interview. Please make sure to have these things with you for the interview.

Because you are an original member of *MIDUS (Midlife in the US)*, your participation is critical to the continued success of this study.

**If you have any questions about the study, you may contact the University of Wisconsin Survey Center toll-free at 1-888-811-5898 or [MIDUS@wisc.edu](mailto:MIDUS@wisc.edu).**

We very much look forward to talking with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carol D. Ryff".

Carol D. Ryff, Ph.D.

Principal Investigator, MIDUS

Director, University of Wisconsin Institute on Aging



**CAPI by CATI Thank You and SAQ Advance Notice (For interviews conducted by telephone)**

Date

Respondent Name  
Street Address  
City, State, Zip

Dear Respondent Name,

Enclosed please find a check for \$75, which is our token of appreciation for your participation in the **MIDUS** study telephone interview.

Your continuing participation in this survey helps us gather important information about the factors that contribute to a healthy adult life.

Within the next week, you will receive a questionnaire in the mail. We encourage you to fill it out as soon as possible and return it in the postage paid envelope that will be enclosed. As always, your participation is completely voluntary and any information you share with us is kept strictly confidential. There are no significant risks to participating. If you choose to complete this mail questionnaire, you will receive an additional \$50.

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant or have complaints about the research study or study team, call the confidential research compliance line at 1-833-652-2506. University of Wisconsin-Madison staff not part of the study team will work with you to address concerns and assist in resolving any complaints.

**If you have any questions about the study, please contact the University of Wisconsin Survey Center toll-free at 1-888-811-5898 or MIDUS@wisc.edu.**

Thank you again for your continued participation.

Sincerely,



Carol D. Ryff, PhD  
Principal Investigator, MIDUS  
Director, University of Wisconsin Institute on Aging

**CAPI by CATI 1<sup>st</sup> SAQ Cover Letter (For interviews conducted by telephone)**

Date

Respondent Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Dear Respondent Name,

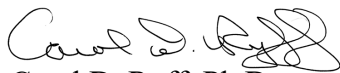
As mentioned, when we spoke by phone, your continuing participation in this survey helps us gather important information about the factors that contribute to a healthy adult life. Some questions we ask are easier if read by the participant, so **we've created a questionnaire booklet that we would like you complete and return in the postage-paid, self-addressed envelope provided.**

Directions on how to complete the questionnaire are found inside the front cover. Take your time and feel free to take breaks along the way. We request that you answer the questions as completely as possible and return the booklet within a few days. As thanks, you will receive a **\$50** check after completing and returning the questionnaire booklet.

Your participation is voluntary and confidential, and you can withdraw at any time. There are no substantial risks involved in participating. At no time will your name or identifying information be attached to survey results. If you have questions about your rights as a research participant or have complaints about the research study or study team, call the confidential research compliance line at 1-833-652-2506. University of Wisconsin-Madison staff not part of the study team will work with you to address concerns and assist in resolving any complaints.

**If you have any questions about the study, please contact the University of Wisconsin Survey Center toll-free at 1-888-811-5898 or MIDUS@wisc.edu.**

Thank you again for participating.  
Sincerely,



Carol D. Ryff, Ph.D.

Principal Investigator, MIDUS

Director, University of Wisconsin Institute on Aging

## Cognitive Interview Thank You Letter

Date

Respondent Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Dear Respondent Name,

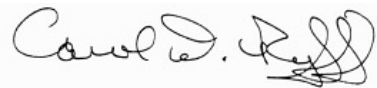
Thank you for completing the telephone interview for *MIDUS (Midlife in the US)*, a study conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison with support from the National Institutes of Health. With your help, researchers will gain a better understanding of how memory works. As an expression of our appreciation, we have enclosed a check for \$50.

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant or have complaints about the research study or study team, call the confidential research compliance line at 1-833-652-2506. University of Wisconsin-Madison staff not part of the study team will work with you to address concerns and assist in resolving any complaints.

**If you have any questions about the study, please contact the University of Wisconsin Survey Center at 608-265-9866 or [MIDUS@wisc.edu](mailto:MIDUS@wisc.edu) or toll-free at 1-888-811-5898.**

Thank you again for your help on this important study.

Sincerely,



Carol D. Ryff, PhD  
Principal Investigator, MIDUS  
Director, University of Wisconsin Institute on Aging

## Increased Incentive Letter

Date

Respondent Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip

**MIDUS NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

Dear Respondent Name,

We have been trying to reach you to schedule a time to interview you for *Midlife in the United States (MIDUS)*, a study about American adults that we are conducting at the University of Wisconsin. We know how busy you are and how valuable your time is.


**As a token of our appreciation for participating in the interview,  
We would like to give you \$150.**

While we are funded by federal grants that limit our ability to compensate you as much as we would like, we hope this increase will relay how valuable your experiences are to this study. By sharing your life story over 10 years ago, you have made MIDUS one of the largest studies of American life of its kind. We are writing to you as a member of this important group to ask for your continued help. We can't know how or why people change unless we know what has occurred in their lives over time. We would like to see how you are doing and how your life has changed since we first interviewed you 10 years ago.

An interviewer from the University of Wisconsin Survey Center will contact you soon. If you haven't heard from us, we might not have good contact information for you. Please call us toll-free at 1-888-811-5898 to update your contact information, arrange an interview, or if you have any questions or concerns.

It is important that we speak to individuals with many different experiences and of many ages and backgrounds so that the study represents American adult life. We remain deeply grateful for your continuing participation in this important study. Your life story is precious to us, and no one could ever take your place.

Sincerely,

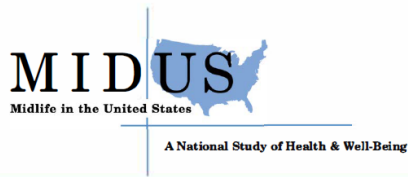


Carol D. Ryff, PhD

Principal Investigator, MIDUS

Director, University of Wisconsin Institute on Aging

**Note left at door if no one is home:**



## **I'M SORRY I MISSED YOU!**

I stopped by to talk with you about the MIDUS Study.  
You will be given **\$150 cash** for completing the interview.

Please give me a  
call as soon as you get the chance.

You can also call the toll-free hotline at 1-888-811-5898.

**Lifesavers note included with goodie bag left at door:**

Just a little something...  
...to sweeten your day.

We so much appreciate your help on  
the MIDUS Study!

### **Resource card**

**(Interviewers give to respondents if they indicate a need during any interaction)**



### **NEED HELP?**

Dial 2-1-1 to access family, health and social service resources, available 24/7.

**Toll-free 1-866-211-3380**  
**Text your ZIP code to 898-211**  
**[www.211.org](http://www.211.org)**

SERVING SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN  
Free | Confidential | Multilingual

## Medicare and Medicaid Data Collection

We would like to understand how use of health care may change as people age. To do that, we need to obtain information about health care costs and diagnoses, which is available in the Medicare and Medicaid files. If you decide to participate in this part of the MIDUS Study, we will obtain information from Medicare and Medicaid about the services provided to you. These records will provide information about diagnoses, clinical encounters, procedures, and treatments. Your participation in this sub-study is voluntary. There are no risks to you and only indirect benefits by helping science as we learn more about healthcare use and healthcare costs of Medicare and Medicaid enrollees.

We have a strict commitment to protect all the information we obtain as part of MIDUS and have developed an extensive protocol to ensure the security and confidentiality of your information. The information about you obtained from Medicare and Medicaid will be stored in separate locked files from the main MIDUS data. These health care data will be combined with the MIDUS data only for scientific research under approved conditions by qualified investigators. The federal government's National Institute on Aging has issued MIDUS an official Certificate of Confidentiality that protects information we collect from third-party inquiries. For security reasons, any information we collect cannot be made available to you, and it will never be made available to anyone for purposes other than scientific investigation of MIDUS participants as a group.

If you have any questions, you may contact the University of Wisconsin Survey Center, toll-free at 1-888-811-5898 or [MIDUS@wisc.edu](mailto:MIDUS@wisc.edu). If you have any concerns about your rights as a research participant or have complaints about the research study or study team, call the confidential research compliance line at 1-833-652-2506. Staff will work with you to address concerns about research participation and assist in resolving problems.

By signing this form, you are giving permission for your health information to be used by and shared with the individuals described in this form. Unless you withdraw your permission in writing to stop the use of your health information, there is no end date for its use for this research study. You may withdraw your permission at any time by writing to MIDUS:

MIDUS – A National Study of Health and Well-Being  
University of Wisconsin-Madison Institute on Aging  
1300 University Avenue, 2245 MSC  
Madison, WI 53706

Fax: 608-263-6211  
E-mail: [MIDUS@wisc.edu](mailto:MIDUS@wisc.edu)

Beginning on the date you withdraw your permission, no new information about you will be used. Any information that was shared before you withdrew your permission will continue to be used.

### Permission for MIDUS Medicare and Medicaid Data Collection

I have read this consent and authorization form describing the research study procedures, risks, and benefits, what health information will be used, and how my health information will be used. I have had a chance to ask questions about the research study, including the use of my health information, and I have received answers to my questions. I agree to participate in this research study and permit the researcher to use my health information as described above.

---

**Signature of Participant**

---

**Date**

IRB Approval Date: 5/9/2023  
University of Wisconsin – Madison

## **MIDUS Milwaukee Refresher 2 Verification Interview Script**

Introduction:

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am calling on behalf of the University of Wisconsin Survey Center about the Mid-life in the US or MIDUS Study. Recently you might have been interviewed by a field interviewer for this study.

Were there any problems or concerns that you had with the visit or interviewer?

Was the interviewer courteous and respectful?

Did the interviewer speak clearly?

Did the interviewer talk about themselves personally in a way that was unprofessional or a poor use of your time?

Did the interviewer talk about the study in a way that was easy to understand rather than confusing?

The interviewer should have given you \$X cash to thank you for your participation. We just want to confirm that you received this cash – is that correct? Y/N

Is there anything else you would like to tell me about the interview?