

## Sample Focus Group Screener Form

NCI/NIEHS Environmental Focus Group Project  
Screening Questionnaire for North Carolina, Iowa, and California

**Group 1: The Public “Touched by Cancer”**  
**Group 2: The Public “NOT Touched by Cancer”**

### ***Summary of recruiting specifications for each group***

Equal mix of men and women  
Spread of ages 35–60  
High school degree or some college  
50% white; 50% mix of African American, Hispanic, and Asian  
50% with children < age 10; 50% with children age 10+ or no children  
Experience with cancer:  
    Group 1 – “Touched by cancer” only  
    Group 2 – “Not touched by cancer” only  
Interested but not well informed about environmental/health issues  
Not an opinion leader or activist  
Never worked in the health/medical or environmental field  
Not been in a focus group in the past year

(RECRUIT FOR 9–10 TO SHOW PER GROUP)

1. Good morning/evening. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm a researcher calling from (INSERT NAME OF FACILITY) in (INSERT LOCATION). We are talking to people to learn their opinions on some health-related issues that concern many Americans. Is there an adult in the household between the ages of 35 and 60? ONCE SPEAKING TO ADULT, REPEAT FIRST TWO SENTENCES IF NECESSARY. THEN ASK: Would you be willing to answer a few questions?

- a. Yes (CONTINUE)
- b. No (THANK AND END)

*Note whether respondent is male or female and recruit an equal mix for each group.*

2. First, I need to ask you some basic information. Which category best describes your age?

- a. Under 35 (THANK AND END)
- b. 35–43 (CONTINUE)
- c. 44–52 (CONTINUE)
- d. 53–60 (CONTINUE)
- e. 61 or older (THANK AND END)

*Recruit 4 from each age category, with good age spread.*

3. What is the highest grade you have completed in school? READ LIST IF NECESSARY.

- a. 8th grade or less (THANK AND END)
- b. Some high school (grades 9, 10, or 11) (THANK AND END)
- c. High school graduate (CONTINUE)
- d. GED (High school equivalency) (CONTINUE)

- e. Some college/2-year college/technical school/ associate degree (CONTINUE)
- f. College graduate (THANK AND END)
- g. Some graduate school/post-graduate degree (THANK AND END)

*For each group, recruit half with high school diploma or GED and half with some college.*

4. We want to make sure we represent different ethnic and racial groups in our study. Would you describe yourself as... ? (READ AND RECORD)

- a. Hispanic or Latino/Latina (SKIP TO Q.6)
- b. Not Hispanic or Latino/Latina (CONTINUE)

5. Next, would you describe yourself as...? (READ AND RECORD)

- a. White (SKIP TO Q.7)
- b. Black or African American (SKIP TO Q.7)
- c. American Indian or Alaskan Native (THANK AND END)
- d. Asian (CONTINUE)
- e. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (THANK AND END)

*Recruit 4 from each age category, with good age spread.*

6. (FOR HISPANICS AND ASIANS ONLY) What language do you usually speak at home?

- a. English only (CONTINUE)
- b. Another language only (THANK AND END)
- c. English and another language equally (CONTINUE)

*For each group, recruit 2 Hispanics and 2 Asians having English as their primary language. Make sure **ALL** participants speak clearly and are easy to understand (no heavy accents).*

7. Do you have any children under the age of 10, either by birth or adoption?

- a. Yes (CONTINUE)
- b. No (CONTINUE)

*For each group, recruit half with children **UNDER** age 10, and half with children age 10 and older or no children.*

8. How would you describe your overall health? Would you say it was...? (READ AND RECORD)

- a. Excellent (CONTINUE)
- b. Good (CONTINUE)
- c. Fair (CONTINUE)
- d. Poor (CONTINUE)

9. Now I'd like to ask you about several health conditions. Please tell me if either you, a member of your immediate family, or a close friend has been diagnosed with any of these conditions in the past 5 years? (READ LIST. IF ASKED, "IMMEDIATE FAMILY" INCLUDES SPOUSE, GRANDPARENT, PARENT, SIBLING, OR CHILD.)

- |                   |                     |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                   | Yes                 | No                  |
| a. Heart disease? | (CONTINUE)          | (CONTINUE)          |
| b. Diabetes?      | (CONTINUE)          | (CONTINUE)          |
| c. Cancer?        | (RECRUIT FOR GRP 1) | (RECRUIT FOR GRP 2) |

Recruit participants who say “YES” to cancer for group 1 (“Touched by Cancer Group”).  
Recruit those who say “NO” to cancer for group 2 (“**NOT** Touched by Cancer Group”).

10. There are a number of issues in the news, and it's hard to keep up with every area. I'm going to read you a brief list of issues. Please tell me if you are “very interested,” “interested,” “somewhat interested,” or “not at all interested” in each issue. (READ LIST) Are you very interested, interested, somewhat interested, or not at all interested in...? (INSERT ISSUE; CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE FOR EACH ISSUE)

ISSUE:	Very interested	Interested	Somewhat interested	Not at all interested
a. School issues	(GO TO B)	(GO TO B)	(GO TO B)	(GO TO B)
b. Economy and business issues	(GO TO C)	(GO TO C)	(GO TO C)	(GO TO C)
c. Environment and health issues	(CONTINUE)	(CONTINUE)	(THANK & END)	(THANK & END)

11. Now I'd like to go through the list again; for each issue, please tell me whether you consider yourself “well informed,” “moderately informed,” or “poorly informed.” (READ LIST) Are you well informed, moderately informed, or poorly informed about...? (INSERT ISSUE; CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE FOR EACH ISSUE)

ISSUE	Well informed	Moderately informed	Poorly informed
a. School issues	(GO TO B)	(GO TO B)	(GO TO B)
b. Economy and business issues	(GO TO C)	(GO TO C)	(GO TO C)
c. Environment and health issues	(THANK & END)	(CONTINUE)	(CONTINUE)

12. In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following? (READ LIST AND CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY. IF RESPONDENT HAS DONE 3 OR MORE, THANK AND END. IF RESPONDENT HAS DONE 2 OR LESS, CONTINUE.)

- a. Written a letter to the newspaper?
- b. Written an article?
- c. Written to your Congressman or Senator?
- d. Made a speech?
- e. Worked for a political party?
- f. Served on a committee for some local organization?
- g. Held or ran for political office?
- h. Served as an officer of some club or organization?
- i. Been a member of some group for better government?

13. Have you ever had a job in the following areas?

- |                                    | Yes             | No         |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| a. In the health or medical field? | (THANK AND END) | (CONTINUE) |
| b. In the environmental area?      | (THANK AND END) | (CONTINUE) |

14. Have you ever participated in a focus group or been paid to be part of a discussion group?

- a. Yes (CONTINUE)  
b. No (SKIP TO 16)

15. How recently did you participate in the focus group?

- a. Within the past year (THANK AND END)  
b. More than a year ago (CONTINUE)

16. We are conducting an informal group discussion on health issues, and your views would be valuable in helping us better understand this area. The discussion will take place in (INSERT NAME OF TOWN/CITY) on (INSERT DATE) at 5:30 p.m. (Group 1) or 8:00 p.m. (Group 2) at (INSERT FACILITY ADDRESS). The discussion will last two hours, and there will be no attempt to sell you anything. We are simply interested in your opinions. We will pay you \$\_\_\_\_\_ as a way of thanking you for participating. You will also be given a light meal or snack. Would you be interested in attending?

- a. No (THANK AND END)  
b. Yes (RECORD NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER BELOW)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO: \_\_\_\_\_

Will attend: (CHECK ONE)

\_\_\_\_\_ Group 1 ("Touched by cancer")

\_\_\_\_\_ Group 2 ("**NOT** touched by cancer")

Let me mention two additional things:

- 1) If you wear reading glasses, please be sure to bring them to the discussion, as there may be some reading involved; and
- 2) Please be aware that we have a no-smoking policy. If you have any questions or find that you can't attend, please call us right away at \_\_\_\_\_ so that we can find a replacement.

Thank you for your time and for agreeing to participate in this discussion.