

Baseline Qualitative Interview Guide

Estimated run-time: 60 mins

Warm-up

1. Thank you for agreeing to meet with me today. How have you been since we spoke after court on X day?

Court

2. I'd like to hear about your experience this [/ last] week in your own words. Could you tell me what happened after you were arrested?
3. When you were in custody, what were you thinking about or feeling? How would you describe the place where they held you?
 - *Probe: Did they feed you? What did you eat? Did you need / get medical care? How was the medical care? Did you sleep?*
4. Were you handcuffed?
 - *Probe: Can you tell me what happened? How long were you handcuffed for? Where were you handcuffed? What did it feel like?*
5. Did you have a lawyer? What was your lawyer like? Do you feel like s/he understood you and your case? How much time did you have to speak with your lawyer? Do you feel like you had enough time to talk to them? Did you feel like you got good advice? How comfortable were you with the advice given?
6. Did anyone come to court with you?
 - *Probe: family, friends*
 - *Were you expecting anyone?*
7. *If relevant:* You mentioned that you made bail. Could you tell me about how you got that money together?
 - *Probe: relationships*
8. *If relevant:* You mentioned that you were [on probation / under supervision / had conditions] -- can you tell me about what this means for you? Do you think you'll be able to do the things they've asked from you?
9. What happened after you left court? What did you do next?
10. Thinking about the past few days, are there any ways in which being arrested or going to court has had an impact on you?



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➤ *Probe: employment, family / social disruption*

11. Thinking about getting arrested this / last week, what was going on for you in the weeks before you were arrested?

12. How do you feel about returning to court for your next court date? Will you talk to anyone about the case beforehand?

➤ *Probe: lawyer, friends or family*

13. Thinking more generally, was this your first time going to court?

➤ *If no: probe for circumstances and frequency*

14. Thinking more generally, was this your first time being arrested?

➤ *If no: probe for circumstances and frequency*

15. Have you previously been stopped by the police? Can you tell me about that?

Retention / EMA

We are trying to understand what factors influence whether or not someone shows up in court.

16. Have you or anyone you know not shown up for a court date in the past?

➤ *If yes: can you tell me a bit about why?*

17. What happens if you don't show up for a court date?

18. What would be your biggest obstacle to making your next court date?

19. EMA: How many cell phones have you had in the past six months?

20. EMA: How many times have you changed phone numbers in the past six months?

Optional note: The next three questions are hypothetical.

21. EMA: If a researcher asked you questions that popped up on your cell phone to check-in on your day, and the questions took under five seconds to answer, would you be willing to answer them? What about if you got some money each time you responded?

22. EMA: How frequently would you be willing to answer 1 to 3 questions like this on your cell phone? (Daily, hourly, etc?)

23. EMA: Would the cell phone you have now work for this purpose?



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Housing / Income

Now I'd like to ask a bit about where you were living and how you were getting by before this past arrest.

24. When we spoke last, you said you were staying at X [neighborhood / facility]. How long had you lived there? How would you describe that place? Was that your own place, or did it belong to someone else?
25. Did you live with anyone? Who did you live with? What was it like living with them?
 - *Probe: space / crowding; doubling up, are you comfortable*
26. How would you describe the neighborhood where your [apartment / facility] was? Were there things you liked about it? Were there things you did not like about it? Was it a place you feel safe?
27. Are you still living there?
28. If yes: Has anything changed since your arrest with regards to your living situation? If no: Why did you move? Where do you stay now? Whose place is that? What's that place like?
29. You mentioned you had moved X times in the past year. Could you walk me through the different places you have stayed?
 - *Probe: eviction / homelessness; social / family conflict or dynamics*
30. Now thinking more generally about the time before your arrest, where did you spend most of your time? What was that place like?
31. Thinking about the past year, can you tell me the ways you get by financially?
 - *If job:* How long have you worked there? What do you think about the job? Are there things you like about it? Are there things you don't like about it? Do you feel like it's a good job? Is it the kind of job you would like to be doing?
 - *If no job:* could you tell me a bit about why you're not working right now? Would you like to be working? What kind of job would you like?
 - *If activities / hustle:* How long have you been doing this? What do you think about it? Are there things you like about it? Are there things you don't like about it? Is it the kind of thing you would like to be doing?
 - *If friends / family member:* What is your relationship like with this person / people? Do you help them out in any way?



- *If benefits:* How long have you gotten X? What do you have to do to get it? Is this reliable for you? Since you started getting X, has it ever been interrupted? Is X easy or difficult to get? Do you feel like X gives you what you need?
32. Thinking about the last year, would you say you generally had enough money to get by?
- *If no:* what did you do when you come up short?
 - *Probe:* were there people you turn to / charities?
33. What were your biggest expenses, typically?
34. If you really needed to borrow \$30, would somebody lend it to you? How about \$300?

Social Support

Now I'd like to ask a bit about the important people in your life.

35. Thinking about the time before you were arrested, who were the most important people in your life? How would you describe this person / people? How would they describe you? Have those relationships changed since your arrest?
36. Thinking now about family, what were your relationships like with the members of your immediate family [parents / siblings]? Have they changed since your most recent arrest?
37. *If relevant:* You mentioned you have X children. How old are they? Prior to your arrest what were your relationships like with them? Have those relationships changed since the arrest?
38. *If relevant:* Prior to your arrest, what was your relationship like with your child/ children's other parent[s]? Have the relationships changed since the arrest?
39. *If relevant:* What is your favorite thing about being a parent? What is your least favorite thing about being a parent?
40. *If relevant:* What do you want for your kids?
41. *If relevant:* What do you think makes a good parent?
42. Thinking now about your friends, have you had the same friends for a long time or do you make a lot of new friends? What do you think makes a good friend?
43. Do you tend to think that most people can be trusted, or that you have to be careful with people? How do you decide who to trust?

Daily Life and Wellbeing

We want you to answer these questions thinking about your day-to-day prior to your recent arrest.

44. Could you tell me a bit about what a typical day looked like before your arrest?
45. What kinds of things did you like doing?
46. How much sleep would you say you used to get on the whole? Were you ever taking anything to help you sleep? Were you ever having nightmares? *Probe: interrupted sleep, headaches, back pain*
47. Did you feel like you usually had enough to eat? What were your favorite things to eat?

Background

To finish, I'd like to ask you some more general questions.

48. What do you think the best part of your life is now?
49. What did you imagine your life would look like when you were growing up?
50. What do you think your life will look like ten years from now?
51. *If not yet addressed:* What would you like your life to look like ten years from now?

That concludes our interview for today, thank you for taking the time to talk with me. Next time we meet, in about three months, I'd like to keep talking about some of these topics to learn more about you.

Interviewer note: Pay respondent and have them sign receipt.