What is ACASI?

• ACASI = Audio Computer Assisted Self-Interview
• Why ACASI?
• What is the interviewer’s role?
How does ACASI work?

• Pop Council software on touch-screen tablets
• Participant uses audio headphones and enters responses directly onto tablet
  • Questions and response options read out loud
  • Text also appears on screen
  • Translated into local languages
• Data automatically stored in database
• Skip patterns automated; scientific integrity of data
Why use ACASI in microbicide trials?

- Research indicates interview method affects answers to sensitive questions.
- No interviewer bias.
- Increased privacy and confidentiality may yield more honest reporting.

With face to face interviews (FTFIs) participants more likely to:
- Underreport sexual behaviors (# of sex acts)
- Over-report desired behaviors (condom use)
- Over-report product use (adherence affects ability to prove effectiveness)
Adherence – Ring removal

(NES/EE contraceptive ring trial @ 7 sites; participants randomized to ACASI or FTFI)

- Removed before intercourse (N=464) P<0.01
- Left out more than 2 hours (N=449) P<0.01
What is the interviewer’s role?

1. Explain ACASI to participant/answer Qs
2. Demonstrate use of headphones/stylus and go through practice Qs
3. Set up ACASI unit/complete admin Qs
4. Leave room/close door (ensure privacy!)
5. Remind participant to ask Qs at any time & tell you when finished
Explaining ACASI to Participants

• Stress that we are using ACASI to give as much privacy as possible

• Explain that interview questions have been recorded on the computer; she will hear them through the headphones.

• DO NOT tell participants that we are using ACASI because we do not think they give truthful answers in face-to-face interviews

• Emphasize that responses are kept confidential

• Tell participant what to expect during the ACASI interview
Explaining ACASI to Participants Con’t

• Explain that she will hear each question and the possible responses on the headphones.

• If she would like to answer the question before hearing all of the possible responses, she can.
  • However, we ask participant to take as much time as she needs to think about the best answer to fit her situation.

• The voice on the headphones is not “live” so questions should not be answered out loud.

• When asked a question, participant will choose her answer by pressing the computer screen/appropriate box with the stylus.
  • Show her how to press the screen lightly and as straight as possible.
Demonstrate use of headphones, stylus and computer

• Headphones
  – Confirm participant has used headphones before
  – Show her how they work, including using the dial/knob on the cable/wire to adjust the volume.
  – Show how to put the headphones on (side labeled R should cover right ear; side labeled L, the left ear).

• Stylus
  – Show her how to use the stylus – tap lightly and as straight as possible on the screen
Answering Participant's Questions

- If participant has questions, DO NOT answer for her or enter her response for her on the computer.

- To answer questions related to how to use ACASI, refer to the guide for administrators on how to use ACASI in the ACASI Manual.

- Make sure you are familiar with the instructions for each type of question.

- Repeat the instructions provided in the audio script.

- Guide the participant on how to answer the question using hypothetical answers.

- Do not ask the participant what answer she would like to enter.

- Refer to ACASI Manual for specific instructions.