

## The Drinker's Check-up (DCU)

Reid K. Hester, Ph.D.

Research Division, Behavior Therapy Associates, LLP

ReidHester@behaviortherapy.com



## The DCU: A brief motivational intervention (BMI)



- BMIs have most evidence of effectiveness of interventions for individuals with alcohol problems (Miller et al., 2003).
- BMIs have been evaluated in diverse populations and settings.
- Most, but not all, randomized clinical trials have been with drinkers who are not severely dependent (alcoholic).



## BMIs Theoretical Background



- Brief interventions evolved atheoretically from outcome research: minimal tx = more extensive tx. (Miller et al., 2003)
- Brief interventions began to incorporate motivational elements as Motivational Interviewing (MI) evolved (Miller & Rollnick, 1991).
- Underlying theory of motivation (Miller, 2004) in MI is now the theoretical basis for BMIs.





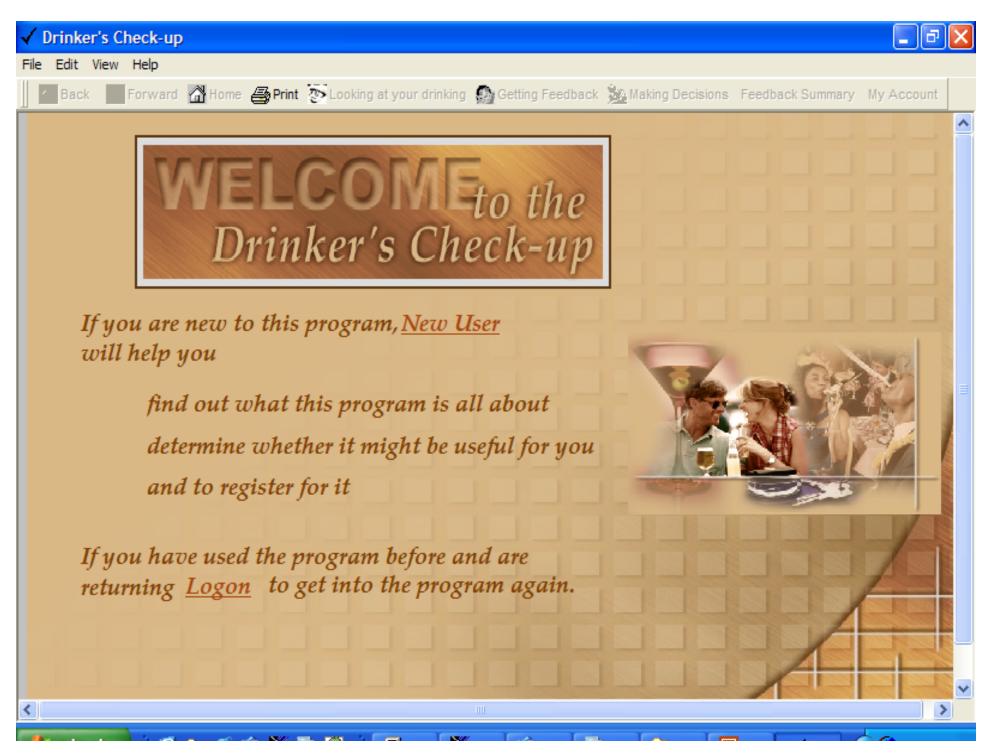
- Comprehensive assessment of drinking, consequences, risk factors, dependence, & other drug use
- Objective feedback w/o labeling, diagnosing, The feedback creates discomfort within the drinker.
- Interactions following feedback to resolve ambivalence about changing & enhance motivation for change.



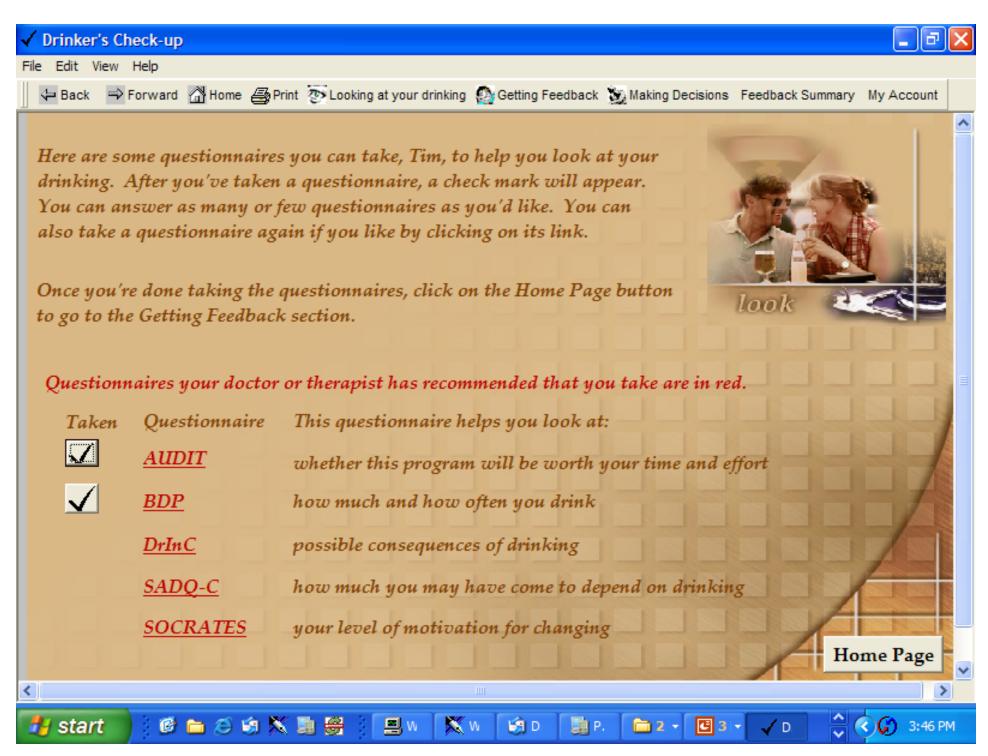
## The DCU modules

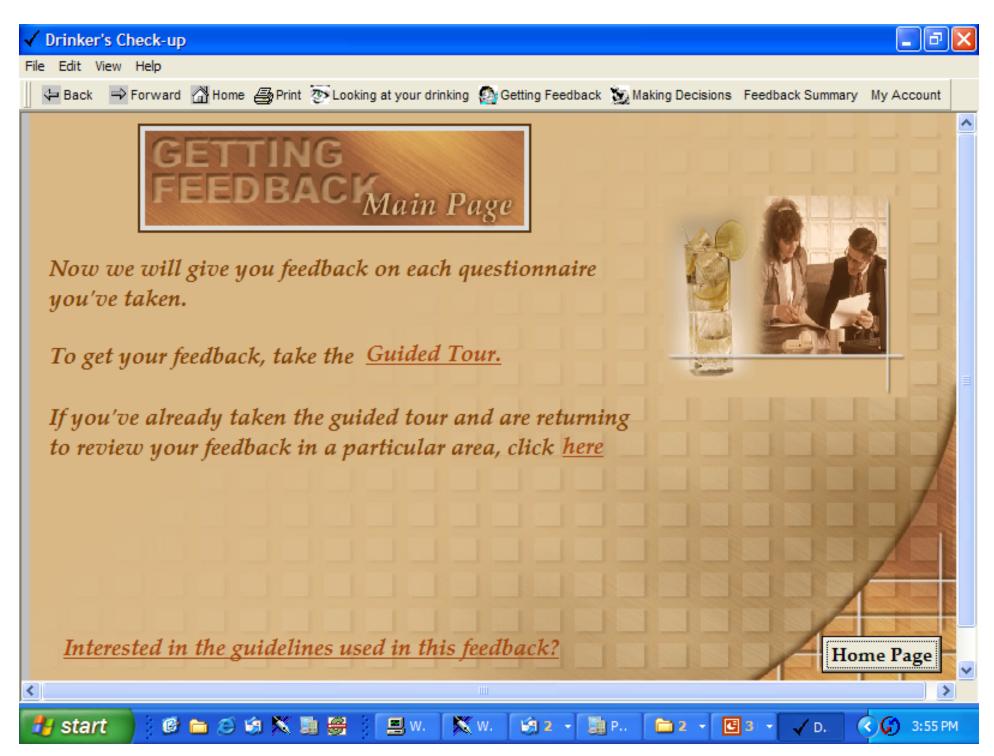


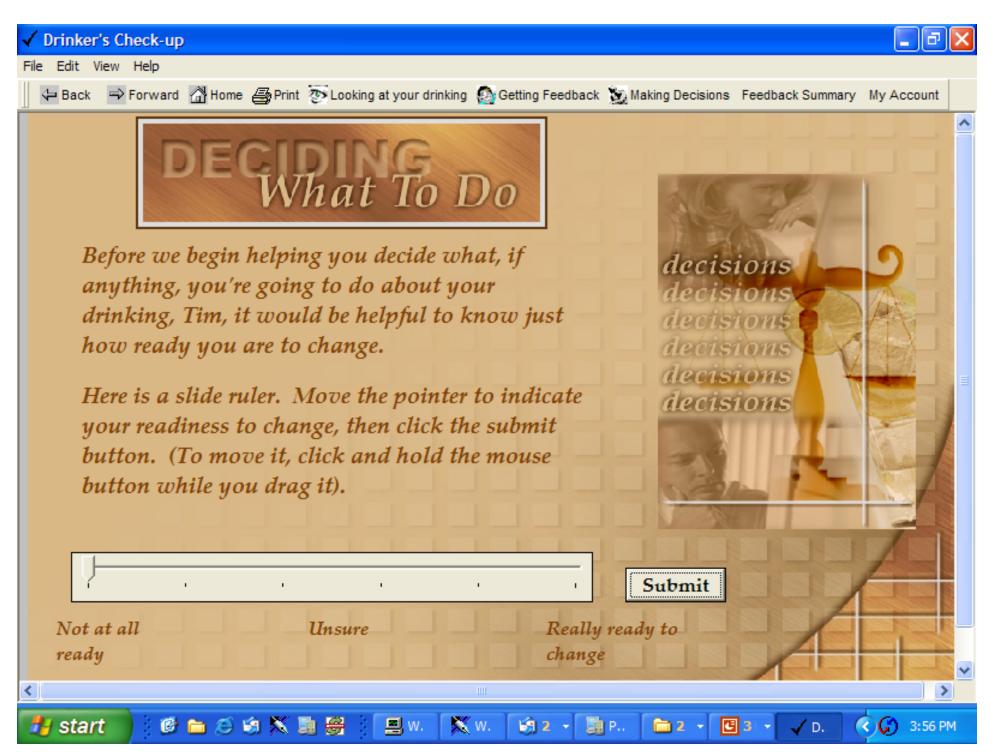
- Look at My Drinking
  - A detailed, comprehensive assessment
- Get Feedback
  - Personalized, detailed feedback
- Decide What to Do
  - Designed to resolve user's ambivalence about changing.

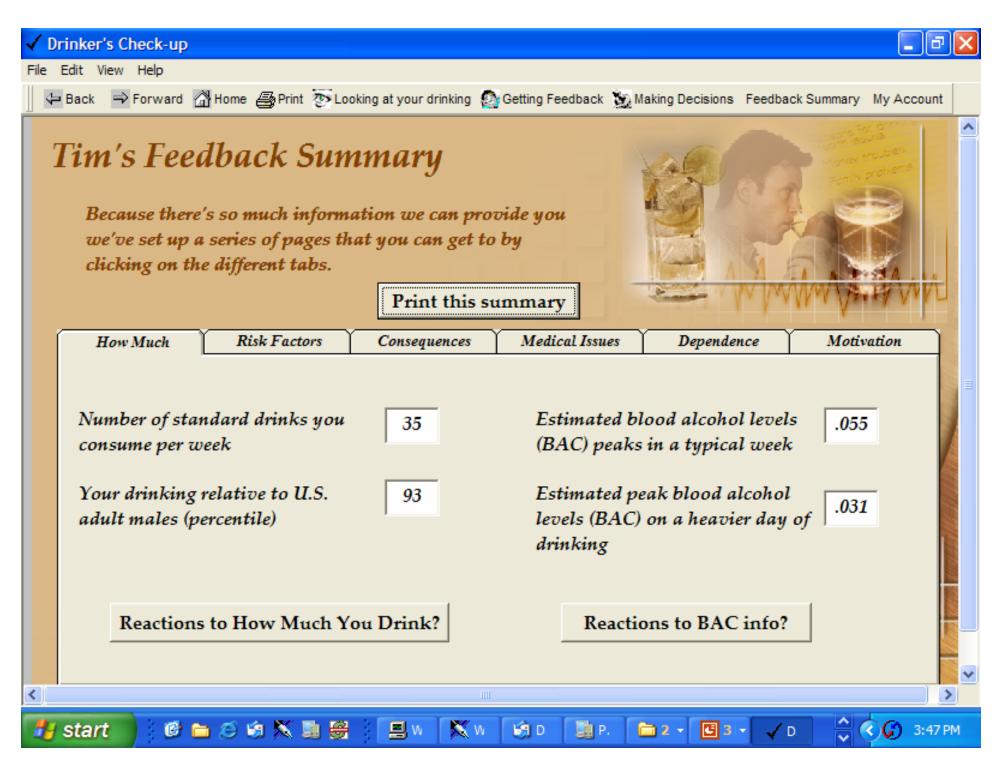
















- Complete overhaul of the graphics, background, fonts, and colors.
- Adding in military specific graphics.
- Creation of Admin. Module to allow for management of the database and revising norms used in the program.













- Adding elements in the initial decisional balance exercise germane to the military.
- Deleting assessments that measure severe dependence (SADQ-C)
- Deleting assessments that compare users to those entering treatment for alcohol problems (DrInC, SOCRATES).
- Adding assessment that measures alcoholrelated problems germane to the military (e.g., Survey of Health Related Behaviors).





- Adding quantity/frequency feedback that includes service specific norms.
- Adding feedback on alcohol-related problems assessment that has military norms.





- Revising the decisional balance exercise to include elements germane to the military and the revised feedback.
- Eliminate requirement of commitment to change prior to proceeding with elements that discuss goals of change, chances of success with moderate drinking, functional analysis of drinking and developing a change plan.





