

Question Development

Unit Title



Learning objectives

- Understand the goals of question development
 - Track the state of the law through a question and answer format
 - Create questions that measure the law, rather than interpret it
- Learn how to draft coding questions
 - Review law and secondary sources
 - Identify constructs (features of the law)
 - Develop response sets
 - Convert constructs into questions
 - Capture unexpected responses through iterative coding

Goals of question development

- Tracks that state of the law through a question-and-answer format
 - This generates empirical data that can be used for evaluation
 - Asking the right questions can yield the information you are interested in obtaining for your study
 - This format lends itself to easily updating and maintaining the study

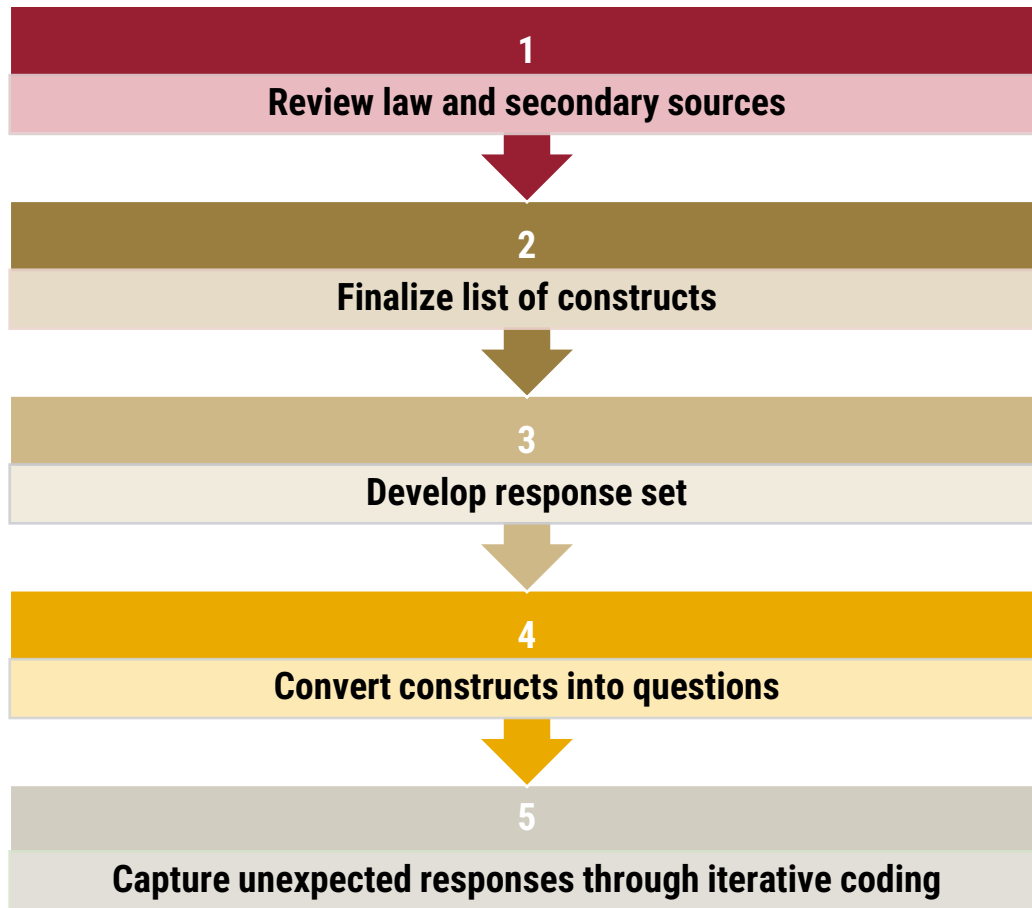


Goals of question development

- Create questions that measure the law rather than interpret it
 - The structure and wording of your questions yields clear responses, which can be collected consistently by different researchers who are unfamiliar with the topic
 - Well-crafted questions make coding easy and efficient



Drafting coding questions





Review law and secondary sources

- Reviewing the research you did in Module 2 will provide needed context to draft coding questions
- Review
 - Five State Memorandum
 - Sample of laws
 - Secondary sources



Finalize list of constructs

Initial constructs observed in the law

Device prohibited
Prohibited behavior
Age of prohibition
Emergency use
Driving record
Type of drive
Use exceptions



Constructs after narrowing the scope

Device prohibited
Prohibited behavior
Emergency use
Type of driver

Set standard constructs

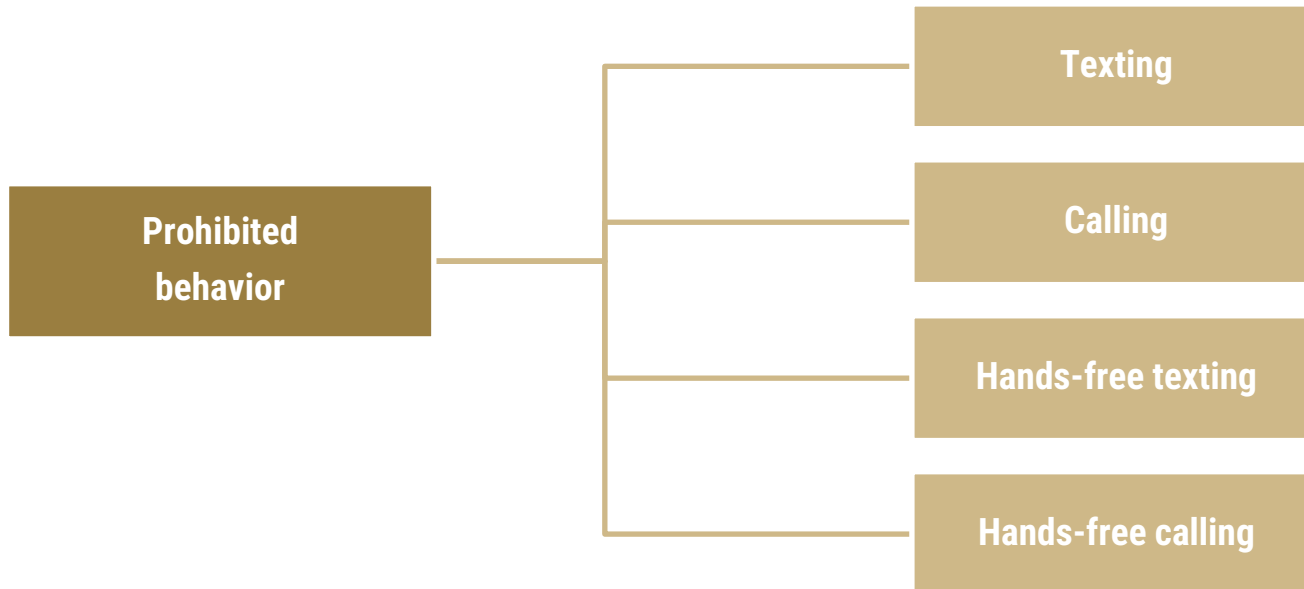
Standard constructs	Construct variables	Examples
Jurisdictions	Country, states, counties, cities, organizations, etc.	United States, Maryland, Anne Arundel, Annapolis
Effective date	Month, day, year	January 1, 2015 October 1, 2009
FIPS code	Federal Informational Processing Standard	Alabama-01 Alaska-02
Coder name	Research who coded the current project	John Doe Jane Doe



Developing response sets

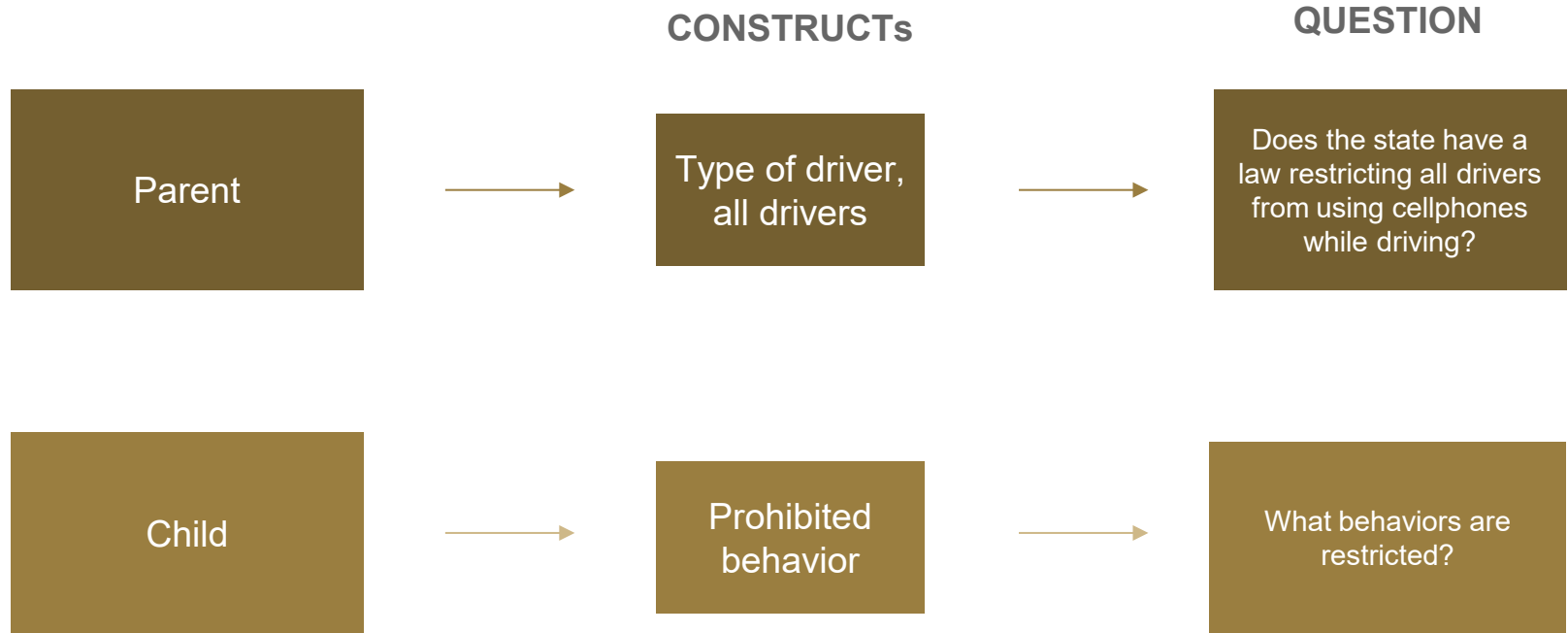
CONSTRUCT

RESPONSES





Converting constructs into questions



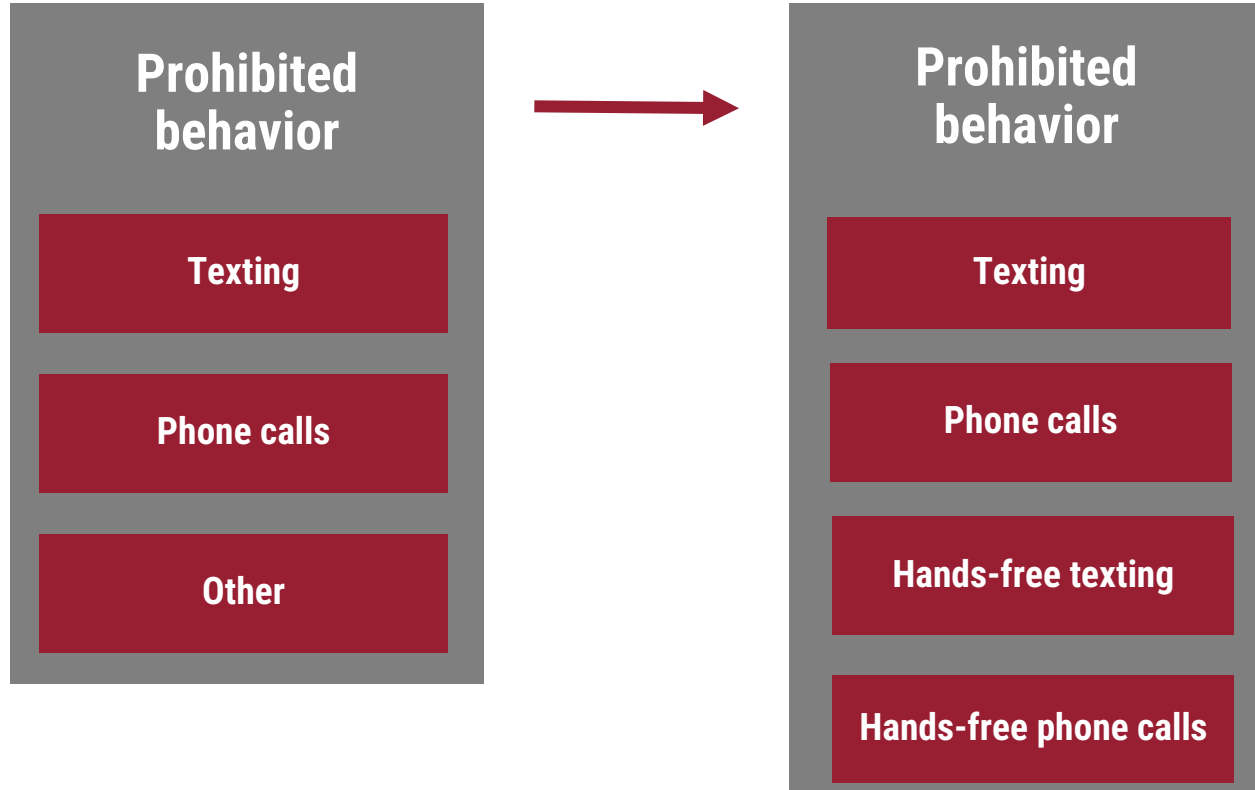


Developing coding questions

	Definition	Example
Observation	Things we measure (facts)	Is there a legal restriction on travelers?
Interpretation	Conclusions we derive from those observations	Does this state have a strict travel policy?



Capture unexpected responses through iterative coding



Summary

- Drafting questions achieves several goals, including
 - Tracking the state of the law through a question-and-answer format
 - Creating questions that measure the law rather than interpreting it
- Steps in question development:
 - Review law and secondary sources
 - Finalize list of constructs
 - Each project should develop an initial list of constructs, which must then be narrowed or broadened to meet the goals of the project
 - Develop response sets
 - Researchers should identify responses to the constructs in the law
 - Convert constructs into questions
 - The selected constructs should be converted and organized into questions
 - The organization of the questions can have a large impact on the information which can be yielded from the project
 - Craft questions that call for observation rather than interpretation
 - Capture unexpected responses
 - As researchers find new responses in the law, they can flag them so that the supervisor can add them to the potential answers for the questions being studied

