

4. SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

4.1 SURVEY TOPICS

GSPS questions concerned a range of health topics: life satisfaction and emotional support; quality of life; health status and chronic medical conditions; depression and anxiety; health care access; and economic and financial conditions. The survey was available in English (December 2010 – December 2011) and Spanish (May 2011 – December 2011). Landline and cell phone surveys were identical other than the questions used in the screeners. English and Spanish versions of the GSPS landline and cell phone screeners and questionnaires are provided in Appendix A.

4.2 SURVEY DEVELOPMENT

CDC developed the survey questionnaire in partnerships with SAMHSA, subject matter experts within CDC, and public health and mental health departments from the four Gulf Coast states. Many of the GSPS questions were taken from the 2010 BRFSS questionnaire [2]. Questions measuring depression and anxiety were taken from the 8-item Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-8) [3] and the 7-item General Anxiety Disorder (GAD-7) [3] questionnaire. Sixteen GSPS questions were specific to the *Deepwater Horizon* disaster and measured contact with oil from the spill and changes in household income associated with the spill.

4.3 POSSIBLE SOURCES OF COMPARISON DATA

In some cases, comparisons between data from the GSPS with other surveys can help to provide context for the GSPS results, and CDC designed the GSPS to facilitate such comparisons. The main potential source of comparison data is the BRFSS. All four states conducted the core BRFSS survey annually before the oil spill. In addition, some of the states have used BRFSS optional modules. For example, Louisiana and Mississippi administered the BRFSS *Anxiety and Depression Modules* in 2008 and 2010, and in 2006 Louisiana used the BRFSS *Intimate Partner Violence Module*. In some cases, comparisons also might be made to other surveys, although dissimilarities in methods and sampling may limit direct comparisons and few surveys measure mental health at the county-level (Appendix B)