

Name of Measure: Beck Hopelessness Scale (BHS; Beck & Steer, 1988; Beck, Weissman, Lester, & Trexler 1974)

Purpose of Measure: To assess level of negative expectations about the future

Author(s) of abstract:

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Reference: Crocker, J., Luhtanen, R., Blaine, B., & Broadnax, S. (1994). Collective self-esteem and psychological well-being among White, Black, and Asian College students. *Personality & Social Psychology Bulletin*, 20(5), 503-513.

Description of measure: The Beck Hopelessness Scale provides a self-report measure of one's negative expectations regarding the future. It consists of 20 true-false items arrayed within three factors: Feelings about the future, loss of motivation, and future expectations. The total BHS score is a sum of item responses and can range from 0 to 20 such that higher scores reflect higher levels of hopelessness. Scores ranging from: 0 to 3 as are considered within the normal range, 4 to 8 identify mild hopelessness, scores from 9 to 14 identify moderate hopelessness, and scores greater than 14 identify severe hopelessness (Beck & Steer, 1988).

Language availability: English.

Translation Comment: Not applicable

Description of Asian population: Two hundred and thirty eight undergraduate students enrolled in a large northeastern university participated in the research. They were 40.3% White/Caucasian, 38.2% Black/African American, 14.7% as Asian/Oriental, 6.7% Other.

| | % Male | % U.S. Citizens | % English as 1 st lang | Median family income |
|-------|--------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| White | 54.2 | 97 | 94 | 50,000-59,000 |
| Black | 52.7 | 88 | 96 | 30,000-39,000 |
| Asian | 62.9 | 46 | 14 | 30,000-39,000 |

Norms:

Hopelessness Scale Means and Standard Deviations by Race

| | White | Black | Asian |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Mean*** | 2.26 | 2.92 | 5.97 |
| Standard Deviation | 2.37 | 3.62 | 5.06 |

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Reliability: Beck et al. (1974) reported internal consistency reliability of .93. The alpha coefficient for the present combined sample was .86

Validity: See original reference

Original reference to instrument Beck, A. T., Weissman, A., Lester, D., & Trexler, L. (1974) The measurement of pessimism: The Hopelessness Scale. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 42(6), 861-865.

Other reference: Beck, A. T., & Steer, R. A. (1988). *Manual for the Beck Hopelessness Scale*. San Antonio, TX: Psychological Corp.

How to obtain a copy of the instrument: Psychological Corporation. 19550 Bulverde Road, San Antonio, TX 78259 1-800-872-1726 www.psychcorp.com