

Name of Measure: Chinese Depressive Symptom Scale (Lin, 1989).

Purpose of Measure: To measure depressive symptoms among Chinese.

Author(s) of Abstract:

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Reference: Lin, N. (1989). Measuring depressive symptomatology in China. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, 177, 121-131.

Description of measure: Chinese Depressive Symptom Scale (CDS) is a 22 item scale based on the CES-D (Radloff, 1977). Questions are introduced with the question, "In the past week, have you had the following feelings?" There are four response categories: always (1), from time to time (2), occasionally (3), and never (4). Item scores are reversed (4 = 0, 3 = 1, 2 = 2, and 1 = 3), consistent with the North American coding of the scale, such that higher scores reflect greater symptom severity.

In addition to the 20 CES-D items, six new items were crafted based on the experiences of Chinese mental health workers. Based on a psychometric evaluation, the author recommends the elimination of the 4 positively worded CES-D items and the inclusion of new 6 items to produce the new 22-item CDS scale. If an abbreviated version is desired, then the 6 new items do not need to be included. This shorter version is comprised of the 16 "negative" CES-D items.

The content of the new 6 items reflect the expression of psychiatric complaints common within this population. The English translation of these items is:

1. I feel I have a lot to talk about, but can't find the opportunity to say it.
2. I feel suffocated.
3. I feel suspicious of others.
4. I don't think others trust me.
5. I don't think I can trust others.
6. I remember unpleasant things from the past.

Language: English and Chinese.

Translation comments: The CES-D was translated and back translated into Chinese and English by bilingual professionals. The author noted difficulty in the translation of some items. As an example, the "just as good" item would translate into Chinese as "I don't feel I am less worthy than others." The CDS items are semantically equivalent to the English items rather than being literal translations.

Description of Asian population: Respondents were 1,000 adults living in Tianjin, the third largest city in China who self identified as the head of the household or his/her spouse. A proportionate stratified random sampling frame was used. Households within neighborhoods were stratified on the basis of the occupation of the head of the household. A total of 30 household were selected from each sampled neighborhood.

Sample Characteristics (N = 1000)

Male	50.5%
Female	49.5%
Age (mean)	43.2

Sample Characteristics	
Married	93.9%
Education (mean)	3.90
Occupation	
Professional	16.5%
Admin, management	10.5%
Clerical	13.1%
Sales	3.5%
Services	2.8%
Factory workers	52.8%

Norms: Depressive Symptom Item Means

Item	Total Sample
1. Bothered	.467
2. Poor appetite	.668
3. Blues	.278
4. Just as good ^a	2.214
5. Hard to concentrate	.598
6. Depressed	.292
7. Everything an effort	.497
8. Hopeful ^a	1.294
9. Failure	.239
10. Fearful	.085
11. Restless sleep	.660
12. Happy ^a	.872
13. Talked less	.483
14. Lonely	.194
15. People unfriendly	.106
16. Life meaningful ^a	.816
17. Crying spells	.093
18. Sad	.151
19. People dislike me	.096
20. Couldn't get going	.241
21. No chance to talk	.460
22. Feeling suffocated	.260
23. Others didn't trust me	.058
24. Suspicious of others	.127
25. Couldn't trust others	.354
26. Remembering unhappy past	.693
Sum of 20 items	10.296
Sum of 16 items ^b	5.122
Sum of 26 items	12.246
Sum of 22 items ^c	7.067

^a Scores reversed. ^b The first 20 items excluding the four positive items.

^c The 26 items excluding the four positive items.

The correlation coefficient between the 16-item scale and the 22-item scale is .98. The 16 item and 22 items scales are correlated with the original 20 item scale at .90 and .88 respectively.

Reliability: The alpha coefficients for item scale were: .770 (20 item) scale; .864 (16 item scale) and .895 (22 item scale). Reliability is improved with the elimination of the 4 positive items and the inclusion of the 6 new items.

Validity: A factor analysis of the 16 and 22 item versions identified 3 factors: Somatic/retarded activity, Interpersonal problem, and Affective mood which are similar to the CES-D items.

Original reference: Lin, N. (1989). Measuring depressive symptomatology in China. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, 177, 121-131.

Other reference: Radloff, L. (1977). The CES-D scale: A self-report depression scale for research in the general population. *Applied Psychological Measurement*, 1, 385-401.

How to obtain copy of instrument: Both the English and Chinese versions are printed in the article.