

Name of Measure: The Youth Self-Report (YSR) (Achenbach, 1991)

Purpose of Measure: To measure behavioral and emotional functioning

Author(s) of Abstract:

May Kwan Lorenzo, Ph.D.
Private Practice, Boston, MA
617-482-6121

Bilge Pakiz, Ed.M
University of California at San Diego

Helen Z. Reinherz, Sc.D
Simmons College School of Social Work

Abbie Frost, Ph.D.
Simmons College School of Social Work

Reference: Lorenzo, M. K., Bilge, P., Reinherz, H. Z., & Frost, A. (1995). Emotional and behavioral problems of Asian American adolescents: A comparative study. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 12(3), 197-212.

Description of measure: Youth Self Report (YSR) is derived from Child Behavior Check List/4-18 (CBCL). It is a self administered form designed for use with adolescents between the ages of 12 and 18. The YSR 112 items that measure eight sub-scale symptoms: withdrawn, somatic complaints, anxiety and depression, social problems, thought problems, attention problems, aggressive behavior, and delinquent behaviors (Achenbach, 1991). Overall behavioral and emotional functioning are measured by the total problem scale. An adolescent selects his or her response from 0 (not true) to 2 (Very true or often true).

Language availability: English

Translation comment: Not applicable

Description of Asian population: The subjects for this study were recruited from Northeastern United States. The sample included 99 Asian American students, 59 females and 40 males. The mean age was 14.5 years old. One third of the adolescents were born in the United States, the remainder were divided evenly between groups that were in this country for less than 5 years, less than 10 years and 11 years or over. The parents of all but one were immigrants. Seventy percent of these parents were born in China or Hong Kong while 21 percent were born in Vietnam.

The subjects lived in a lower-middle class community. Most of the parents were employed in service industries such as restaurants or factories. Eighty-three percent of the adolescents in the sample lived in households with both of their natural parents, compared to 70% in the Caucasian household. Thirteen households had only single mothers and four households were managed by adults not identified as parents.

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Norms:

Means and Standard Deviations of YSR Scores for Asian and Caucasian Children

	Asian (n=99)		Caucasian (n=375)	
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.
Internalizing				
Withdrawn	56.48	6.84	52.78	5.17
Somatic Complaints	55.89	6.03	56.12	6.77
Depression	55.43	6.27	53.46	5.89
Externalizing				
Delinquent	53.71	5.16	57.08	7.39
Aggressive	52.68	4.33	54.35	6.04
Non internalizing & externalizing				
Social Problems	55.30	5.64	52.50	4.91
Attention Problems	53.85	4.80	54.68	6.90
Internalizing	54.55	8.14	50.08	9.49
Externalizing	49.49	7.69	52.23	9.88
Total Score	53.55	7.51	52.28	9.19

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Reliability: Achenbach (1991) reported the mean 7-day test-retest reliability for the problem scales was .65 for 11 to 14-year-old adolescents and .83 for 15 to 18-year-old adolescents. Internal consistencies for symptom scales ranged from alpha .68 for social problems to alpha .89 for externalizing problems and alpha .91 for internalizing problems. This study yielded a reliability alpha at .86 for YSR when the scores of eight symptoms were used for reliability test.

Validity: N/A

Original reference to instrument: Achenbach, T. M. (1991). *Manual for the Child Behavior Checklist/4-18 and 1991 Profile*. Burlington, VT: University of Vermont Department of Psychiatry.

How to obtain copy of instrument: Contact Dr. Achenbach;
 Thomas.Achenbach@uvm.edu