

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

Purpose of Measure: To measure behavioral and emotional functioning of adolescents

Author(s) of Abstract:

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Reference: Nho, C. (1999). Psychological well-being of Korean American and Korean immigrant adolescents in the New York City Area. Dissertation Research.

Description of measure: Youth Self Report (YSR) is derived from Child Behavior Check List/4-18 (known as CBCL). It is designed for use with adolescents between the ages of 12 and 18, and the adolescent himself/herself fills out the form, whereas CBCL allows for clinicians, teachers, and parents to cross check behaviors of children. YSR contains two sub-areas: (a) 20 competence items that measure the child's participation in hobbies, games, sports, jobs, chores, friendship, and activities, and (b) 112 items that measure eight sub-scale symptoms: withdrawn, somatic complaints, anxiety and depression, social problems, thought problems, attention problems, aggressive behavior, and delinquent behaviors (Achenbach,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). The first three subscales are referred to as 'internalizing,' whereas the next two are referred as to 'externalizing'. The remaining three scales are categorized as 'neither internalizing nor externalizing'. 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: YSR has been translated to many languages. For more specific information, please refer to CBCL Manual (Achenbach, 1991).

Translation Comment: NA

Description of Asian population: Two hundred and sixteen Korean American and Korean immigrant adolescents who met the following criteria were recruited to participate in the study. First, they resided in the New York City Metropolitan area, as defined by the Bureau of Census. Second, their age was between 14 and 19. Third, one of their parents was Korean born.

The data were collected between June 1999 and August 1999. The participants consisted of 112 females and 103 males. The modal age of the participants was 16, representing 27% of the total participants. Twenty-four percent of the participants were 17 years old, representing the second largest group in age. Fifty-seven percent of the total participants reported being either in the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grades. Sixty-four percent were born in Korea, and 34% were born in the U.S. Only 2% of the participants were born in places other than Korea and the U.S.

Norms:

Means (standard deviations) of the YSR total and sub-scale scores by gender, language, and immigration

|               |                  | N   | Mean  | S.D.  | T       |
|---------------|------------------|-----|-------|-------|---------|
| Total         | Male             | 103 | 56.16 | 9.45  | 3.00**  |
|               | Female           | 112 | 60.05 | 9.61  |         |
|               | Korean speaking  | 83  | 58.51 | 9.62  | NS      |
|               | English speaking | 133 | 57.96 | 9.77  |         |
|               | Born in U.S      | 73  | 57.67 | 9.34  | NS      |
|               | Born in Korean   | 138 | 58.41 | 9.90  |         |
| Internalizing | Female           | 112 | 60.31 | 9.58  | 3.11**  |
|               | Male             | 103 | 56.02 | 10.65 |         |
|               | Korean speaking  | 83  | 59.65 | 9.64  | NS      |
|               | English speaking | 133 | 57.38 | 10.61 |         |
|               | Born in U.S      | 73  | 56.38 | 10.69 | -1.99*  |
|               | Born in Korean   | 138 | 59.35 | 10.09 |         |
| Externalizing | Female           | 112 | 59.33 | 10.83 | 3.65*** |
|               | Male             | 103 | 54.48 | 8.61  | 3.65*** |
|               | Korean speaking  | 83  | 55.99 | 10.38 | NS      |
|               | English speaking | 133 | 57.63 | 9.87  |         |
|               | Born in U.S      | 73  | 58.32 | 9.36  | NS      |
|               | Born in Korean   | 138 | 56.48 | 10.26 |         |

Differences between Males (N=103) and Females (N = 112) on YSR Sub-scales

|                             |        | Mean  | S.D. | T       |
|-----------------------------|--------|-------|------|---------|
| Internalizing<br>Withdrawn  | Female | 57.13 | 8.33 | Ns      |
|                             | Male   | 56.12 | 7.07 |         |
| Anxious/Depressed           | Female | 61.22 | 9.92 | 2.75**  |
|                             | Male   | 57.86 | 7.79 |         |
| Somatic                     | Female | 59.73 | 8.87 | 2.00*   |
|                             | Male   | 57.50 | 7.32 |         |
| Externalizing<br>Delinquent | Female | 60.96 | 8.67 | 3.44*** |
|                             | Male   | 57.24 | 7.05 |         |

|  |        | Mean  | S.D. | T       |
|--|--------|-------|------|---------|
| Aggressive   | Female | 59.32 | 9.29 | 3.52*** |
|  | Male   | 55.55 | 6.23 |         |
| Non internalizing & externalizing<br>Social problems | Female | 57.14 | 7.27 | NS      |
|  | Male   | 56.39 | 7.31 |         |
| Thought problems                                     | Female | 56.02 | 7.30 | NS      |
|  | Male   | 56.00 | 7.32 |         |
| Attention problems                                   | Female | 58.50 | 7.75 | 1.99*   |
|  | Male   | 56.41 | 7.64 |         |

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 a copy of the instrument: Contact Dr. Achenbach;  
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