Alcohol Expectancy Questionnaire (AEQ)

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The AEQ is an empirically derived self-report form assessing diverse anticipated experiences associated with alcohol use. The revised adult version is a refined compilation of 120 verbatim statements of adult men (53 percent) and women (47 percent) ages 15 to 60 years, with diverse ethnic backgrounds and drinking histories (from nondrinkers to chronic alcoholics). The adult version is designed to assess the domain of alcohol reinforcement expectancies and consists of six factor-analytically derived subscales: (1) positive global changes in experience, (2) sexual enhancement, (3) social and physical pleasure, (4) assertiveness, (5) relaxation/tension reduction, and (6) arousal/interpersonal power. The AEQ has been evaluated in clinical and nonclinical populations, and a number of research-specific derivations have been developed. The AEQ total score (based usually on 90 items) and subscale scores are predictive of current and future drinking practices, persistence and participation in treatment, and relapse following treatment.

**TARGET POPULATION**

- Adults
- □ Adolescents

**Groups for which this instrument might be especially helpful?**

Over 18 years of age

**ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

- Number of items: 120 (90 scored)
- Number of subscales: 6
- Format(s): □ Pencil-and-paper self-administered
  - □ Interview
  - □ Observation
  - □ Computer self-administered
  - □ Other
- Time required for administration: 10 to 15 minutes
- Administered by: Self or personnel
- Training required for administration? □ yes □ no
- Comments: Translated versions are also available (German, Spanish).

Samples of the actual instruments are not included in this online version. For printed copies, please contact the source listed on each fact sheet.

SCORING

Computerized scoring or interpretation available? □ yes □ no (Teleform Software package and scanner required)
Norms available? □ yes □ no

PSYCHOMETRICS

Have reliability studies been done? □ yes □ no
What measure(s) of reliability was used?
   ○ Test-retest
   □ Split half
   □ Internal consistency
Have validity studies been done? □ yes □ no
What measures of validity have been derived?
   ○ Content
   ○ Criterion (predictive, concurrent, “postdictive”)
   □ Construct

CLINICAL UTILITY OF INSTRUMENT

The AEQ plays an integral part in the explication of personally perceived reinforcement from alcohol use, as related to both the initiation and maintenance of alcohol use; assists in explaining expectancy-related factors involved in the relapse process; can guide efforts to identify addiction risk; and may be used to profitably assign treatment resources based on pre-existing expectancies, as well as indicate areas in which adjunctive treatment may be indicated.

RESEARCH APPLICABILITY

A majority of interactionist theories in the etiology and maintenance of addiction, as well as relapse, postulate an expectancy process. For example, the AEQ has been found to mediate the influence of a variety of risk factors (e.g., personality variable, family history). This well-documented instrument provides a means of quantifying this domain. Previous research has found changes in AEQ measured expectancies to be predictive of future drinking and associated with changes in drinking.

SOURCE, COST AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES

Copyright: □ yes □ no
Cost: Not applicable
Source: The AEQ may be obtained for research purposes through requests in writing to the authors:
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SOURCE REFERENCE

SUPPORTING REFERENCES