Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION
The AUDIT was developed by the World Health Organization to identify persons whose alcohol consumption has become hazardous or harmful to their health. The AUDIT is a 10-item screening questionnaire with 3 questions on the amount and frequency of drinking, 3 questions on alcohol dependence, and 4 on problems caused by alcohol.

TARGET POPULATION
☑ Adults
☐ Adolescents

Groups for which this instrument might be especially helpful?
Populations appropriate for a screening program using the AUDIT include primary care, emergency room, surgery, and psychiatric patients; DWI offenders, criminals in court, jail, and prison; enlisted men in the Armed Forces; workers encountered in employee assistance programs and industrial settings; and college students.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES
Number of items: 10
Number of subscales: 3
Format(s): ☑ Pencil-and-paper self-administered
☑ Interview
☐ Observation
☑ Computer self-administered
☐ Other

Time required for administration: 2 minutes
Administered by: Health professional or paraprofessional
Training required for administration? ☑ yes ☐ no

Comments: There is a detailed user's manual and a videotape training module that explains proper administration procedures, scoring, interpretation, and clinical management. The AUDIT has been translated into numerous languages, including Catalan, French, Japanese, Norwegian, Romanian, and Spanish.

**SCORING**

Time required to score/interpret: 1 minute
Scored by: Hand
Computerized scoring or interpretation available? □ yes □ no
Norms available? □ yes □ no
Instrument normed on subgroups? □ yes □ no
Which groups? Heavy drinkers and alcoholics
Comments: An easy-to-use brochure has been designed to guide the interviewer and to assist with scoring and interpretation.

**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 AUDIT screening procedure is linked to a decision process that includes brief intervention with heavy drinkers, or referral to specialized treatment for patients who show evidence of more serious alcohol involvement. Another feature of the AUDIT is the optional Clinical Screening Procedure. This consists of two questions about traumatic injury, five items on clinical examination, and a blood test, the serum GGT. The Clinical Screening Procedure does not refer directly to problems with alcohol and may be particularly relevant for defensive patients in situations where alcohol-specific questions cannot be asked with confidence.

**RESEARCH APPLICABILITY**

The AUDIT is currently being used in a variety of research projects and epidemiological studies. Research guidelines incorporated into the AUDIT manual suggest further research using this instrument.
SOURCE, COST AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES

Copyright: ☒ yes ☐ no
Cost: Test and manual are free; training module costs $75.00.
Source: World Health Organization
Division of Mental Health & Prevention of Substance Abuse
CH-1211
Geneva 27, Switzerland

SOURCE REFERENCES


SUPPORTING REFERENCES


