

Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION	<p>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.</p>
TARGET POPULATION	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Adolescents</p> <p>Groups for which this instrument might be especially helpful?</p> <p>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.</p>
ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES	<p>Number of items: 10 Number of subscales: 3</p> <p>Format(s): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pencil-and-paper self-administered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview <input type="checkbox"/> Observation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Computer self-administered <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> <p>Time required for administration: 2 minutes Administered by: <i>Health professional or paraprofessional</i></p> <p>Training required for administration? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>Comments: <i>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 Catalanian, French, Japanese, Norwegian, Romanian, and Spanish.</i></p>

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

Babor, T.F., Biddle-Higgins, J.C., Saunders, J.B. & Monteiro, M.G. (2001). *AUDIT: The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test: Guidelines for Use in Primary Health Care.* Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization.

Saunders, J.B., Aasland, O.G., Babor, T.F., de la Fuente, J.R. & Grant, M. (1993). Development of the Alcohol Use Disorders Screening Test (AUDIT). WHO collaborative project on early detection of persons with harmful alcohol consumption. II. *Addiction* 88, 791-804.

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Allen, J.P., Reinert, D.F. & Volk, R. (2001). The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Tests: An aid to recognition of alcohol problems in primary care patients. *Preventive Medicine*, 33, 428-433.

Bush, K., Kivlahan, D.R., McDonell, M.B., Fihn, S.D. & Bradley, K.A. (1998). The AUDIT Alcohol Consumption Questions (AUDIT-C). *Archives of Internal Medicine*, 158(16), 1789-1795.

Allen, J.P., Litten, R.Z., Fertig, J.B. & Babor, T.F. (1997). A review of research on the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT). *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, 21, 613-619.

Volk, R.J., Steinbauer, J.R., Cantor, S.B. & Holzer, C.E. (1997). The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) as a screen for at-risk drinking in primary care patients of different racial/ethnic backgrounds. *Addiction*, 92(2), 197-206.