

Drinking-Related Internal–External Locus of Control Scale (DRIE)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The DRIE is a 25-item self-report questionnaire presented in a forced-choice format. It is adapted from the conceptual model and assessment method developed by Rotter to define an individual's beliefs about the extent to which the outcome of important life events are under personal control (internal locus of control) or under the influence of chance, fate, or powerful others (external locus of control). The DRIE assesses these beliefs specifically with respect to the individual's perceptions of control with respect to alcohol, drinking behavior, and recovery. The scale is multidimensional, having empirically defined factors assessing perceived control over interpersonal, intrapersonal, and general factors associated with drinking. Alcohol-dependent individuals have been found to be more external in their drinking-related locus of control than nondependent drinkers. An external locus of control is associated with more physical, social, and psychological impairment from drinking. The perception of control appears to become more internal over the course of alcohol treatment; individuals with more external perceptions are also more likely to drop out of treatment prematurely. Following treatment, alcoholics having an internal drinking-related locus of control are less likely to relapse, drink less and are less likely to have a more prolonged drinking episode if they do relapse, and have a better overall drinking-related outcome than alcoholics with an external DRIE score.

TARGET POPULATION

Adults

Adolescents

Groups for which this instrument might be especially helpful?

Adult alcohol abusers and alcohol-dependent individuals

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Number of items: 25

Number of subscales: 3

Format(s): Pencil-and-paper self-administered

Interview

Observation

Computer self-administered

Other

Time required for administration: 10 minutes

Administered by: Staff

Training required for administration? yes no

SCORING

Time required to score/interpret: 5 to 10 minutes

Scored by: Staff

Computerized scoring or interpretation available? yes no

Norms available? yes no

Instrument normed on subgroups? 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 DRIE can be used to assess the individual's perception of personal control related to alcohol, drinking behavior, and recovery. More external scores, suggesting less personal control and a greater influence of chance, fate, or powerful others, have been shown to be related to more rapid return to drinking, more drinking during the initial lapse episode, a greater likelihood of an initial lapse escalating into a more serious relapse, and overall poorer drinking-related outcomes following treatment. A possible focus of interventions would be to modify the perception of control through cognitive-behavioral approaches, with an anticipated shift toward a more internal locus of control.

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| RESEARCH APPLICABILITY | The DRIE can be used as a predictor of treatment compliance and outcome, an indicator of severity of alcohol dependence, a moderator of the relationship between reasons for drinking and relapse, and as one component of a constellation comprised of perceived locus of control, alcohol-related outcome expectancies, and self-efficacy expectancies. The scale has also been adapted to assess substance-specific control orientations of cocaine abusers and cigarette smokers. |
| SOURCE, COST AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES | Copyright: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no Cost: None |
| SOURCE REFERENCE | Keyson, M. & Janda, L. <i>Untitled Locus of Drinking Control Scale</i> . St. Luke's Hospital, Phoenix, AZ (unpublished). |
| PSYCHOMETRIC DATA | Donovan, D.M. & O'Leary, M.R. (1978). The drinking-related locus of control scale: Reliability, factor structure, and validity. <i>Journal of Studies on Alcohol</i> , 39, 759-784. |
| SUPPORTING REFERENCES | Cavaiola, A.A. & DeSordi, E.G. (2000). Locus of control in drinking driving offenders and non-offenders. <i>Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly</i> , 18(4), 63-74. Collins, R.L., Kutsy, J.R. & Izzo, C.V. (2000). Temptation, restriction, and regulation of alcohol intake: Validity and utility of the temptation and restraint inventory. <i>Journal of Studies on Alcohol</i> , 61(5), 766-773. Hartmann, D.J. (1999). Replication and extension analyzing the factor structure of locus of control scales for substance abusing behaviors. <i>Psychological Reports</i> , 84(1), 277-287. Hirsch, L.S., McCrady, B.S. & Epstein, E.E. (1997). Drinking-Related Locus of Control Scale: The factor structure with treatment-seeking outpatients. <i>Journal of Studies on Alcohol</i> , 58(2), 162-166. Sharp, C., Hurford, D.P., Allison, J., Sparks, R. & Cameron, B.P. (1997). Facilitation of internal locus of control in adolescent alcoholics through a brief biofeedback-assisted autogenic relaxation training procedure. <i>Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment</i> , 14(1), 55-60. |