Family Tree Questionnaire (FTQ) for Assessing Family History of Alcohol Problems

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The FTQ is a brief, easily administered questionnaire which can be used to assess family history of alcohol problems. The questionnaire provides subjects with a consistent set of cues for identifying blood relatives with alcohol problems, by using a family tree diagram for relatives. The reliability of subjects' classification of paternal and maternal first-degree (sibling, parents) and second-degree (grandparents, uncles, aunts) relatives of alcoholic and non-alcoholic subjects was examined. Results indicated that both alcoholics and non-alcoholic subjects can reliably classify their relatives as alcoholics or problem drinkers over a 2-week test-retest interval.

**TARGET POPULATIONS**

- □ Adult drinker populations
- □ Adolescents

**ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

- Number of items: Number of responses depends on the number of first- and second-generation relatives
- Number of scales: Not applicable
- Format(s): □ Pencil-and-paper self-administered
  - □ Interview
  - □ Observation
  - □ Computer self-administered
  - □ Other
- Time required for administration: About 5 minutes
- Administered by: Researcher or clinician or self-administered by the subject/client
- Training required for administration: No

**SCORING**

- Time required to score/interpret: 2 to 3 minutes to count the number of family history-positive and family history-negative relatives
- Computerized scoring or interpretation available: No
- Norms available: Not applicable
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

Family history of alcohol problems is an important variable in alcohol treatment and research. The FTQ is a brief and easy-to-administer questionnaire that can be used to gather self-reports of subjects' family history of first- and second-degree relatives' history of alcohol-related problems. Subjects classify relatives into one of several possible drinker groups ranging from total lifelong abstainers to definite problem drinkers.

The instrument can be used in research studies to gather subjects' reports of their first- and second-degree relatives' history of alcohol-related problems. The instrument has been used with naturally recovered subjects to help them recall their family history of problems.

Copyright: ☑ yes ☐ no
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Source: Linda C. Sobell, Ph.D.
Nova Southeastern University
3301 College Avenue
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314
Phone: 954-262-5811
Fax: 954-262-3845
E-mail: sobelll@nova.edu

SUPPORTING REFERENCES


