Negative Alcohol Expectancy Questionnaire (NAEQ)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The NAEQ assesses in a person the extent to which negative consequences are expected to occur if that person were to “go for a drink now.” The expected negative consequences are held to represent motivation to stop/restrain drinking (rather than motivation to drink, as expected positive consequences might measure). They are measured over three consecutive temporal contexts: same-day expected consequences that accompany “going for a drink now,” next-day expected consequences of going for a drink now, and long-term consequences should drinking continue at the current level. The items are cast into three expectancy subscales: Same-Day (21 items), Next-Day (18 items), and Long-Term (21 items). Also, Proximal (Same-Day) and Distal (Next-Day + Long-Term) subscales are computed. Each item consists of a statement about a negative consequence of drinking alcohol that could conceivably occur. Responses are measured in terms of how likely it is that a person would expect them to occur and are measured on a 5-point Likert scale, ranging from 1=highly unlikely to 5=highly likely. There is a version of the NAEQ for the subject/client to self-administer and a version that can be administered by an expert experimenter/therapist. A short version (22 items) is also available. Self-administered versions are available for Apple Macintosh computers in a hypercard program with integral scoring procedures and for PCs and a Plus 2 program (both mouse driven).

TARGET POPULATION

 Adults
 Adolescents

Groups for which this instrument might be especially helpful?

General target population is adult, either gender and of any drinking status. Principal target population, however, is problem drinkers about to enter treatment or currently in treatment.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Number of items: 60
Format(s): ☑ Pencil-and-paper self-administered
☐ Interview
☐ Observation
☑ Computer self-administered

Time required for administration: 20 minutes (self); 15 minutes (interview)
Administered by: Self, therapist/researcher
Training required for administration? ☐ yes ☑ no
**Assessing Alcohol Problems: A Guide for Clinicians and Researchers**

**SCORING**

Time required to score/interpret: 5 minutes

Scored by: Therapist/researcher

Computerized scoring or interpretation available: [ ] yes [ ] no (for computerized version)

Norms available: [ ] yes [ ] no

Instrument normed on subgroups? [ ] yes [ ] no

Which groups? Nonproblem abstainers; light, moderate, and heavy social drinkers; post treatment relapsers (3 months) assessed at admission; and, similarly, posttreatment abstainers (3 months).

**PSYCHOMETRICS**

Have reliability studies been done? [ ] yes [ ] no

What measures of reliability were 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 NAEQ provides two types of measures: quantitative, assessing the current level of motivation to restrain/stop drinking, and qualitative, assessing the constituent components of the current level of motivation. The quantitative measures are designed to help identify clients with the greater need for their current levels of motivation to be addressed. The qualitative measures (the specific responses to each statement) help provide the information to address these needs (or motivational deficits) as in, for example, a motivational interview. Admission and discharge NAEQ scores can be examined to evaluate the progress of the client in response to treatment.

**RESEARCH APPLICABILITY**

The decision to take a drink or not must involve at some stage the conscious or unconscious weighing of negative against positive expected consequences of the behavior. Much is known about the positive expected consequences of drinking alcohol; little is known about the negative expected consequences. The NAEQ is designed to help discover more about the latter so that the decisionmaking process can be better modeled. If the scores provided by the NAEQ are, indeed, a valid representation of motivation to stop/restrain drinking, then a yardstick (the NAEQ scores) becomes available capable of measuring and evaluating any impact that a particular factor may have on motivation. Admission and discharge scores can be used to evaluate the effects of different motivational treatments.
SOURCE, COST AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES

Copyright: ☐ yes ☐ no

Cost: Handling charge for pencil-and-paper version; computerized version £100/machine license

Source: J. McMahon or B.T. Jones
Department of Psychology
University of Glasgow
Glasgow G 1 2 8QQ
United Kingdom

SOURCE REFERENCES


SUPPORTING REFERENCES


