

Addiction Severity Index (ASI)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The ASI is a semi-structured interview designed to address seven potential problem areas in substance-abusing patients: medical status, employment and support, drug use, alcohol use, legal status, family/social status, and psychiatric status. In 1 hour, a skilled interviewer can gather information on recent (past 30 days) and lifetime problems in all of the problem areas. The ASI provides an overview of problems related to substance, rather than focusing on any single area.

TARGET POPULATIONS

- Adults
- Adolescents

Groups for which this instrument might be especially helpful?

The ASI can be used effectively to explore problems within any adult group of individuals who report substance abuse as their major problem. It has been used with psychiatrically ill, homeless, pregnant, and prisoner populations, but its major use has been with adults seeking treatment for substance abuse problems.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Number of items: *200*

Number of subscales: *7*

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

- Interview
- Observation
- Computer
- Other

Time required for administration: *50 minutes to 1 hour*

Administered by: *Technician*

Training required for administration? yes no

Comments: There is a self-training packet available as well as on-site training by experienced trainers.

SCORING

Time required to score/interpret: 5 minutes–severity rating

Scoring by: *Technician*

Computerized scoring or interpretation available? yes no

Norms available? yes no

Instrument normed on subgroups yes no

Which groups: *The following treatment groups: alcohol, opiate, cocaine: public, private; inpatient, outpatient. The following subject groups: males, females, psychiatrically ill substance users, pregnant substance users, gamblers, homeless, probationers, and employee assistance clients.*

Comments: *The ASI provides two scores: severity ratings are subjective ratings of the client's need for treatment, derived by the interviewer; composite scores are measures of problem severity during the prior 30 days and are calculated by a computerized scoring program.*

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 ASI has been used extensively for treatment planning and outcome evaluation. Outcome evaluation packages for individual programs or for treatment systems are available.

RESEARCH APPLICABILITY

Researchers have used the ASI for a wide variety of clinical outcome studies.

SOURCE, COST AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES Copyright: yes no
Cost: None (public domain, minimal charges for photocopying and mailing may apply)
Source: A.T. McLellan, Ph.D.
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Cost/Source of computerized scoring: A free scoring disk is provided with the training materials, and there is a software program to provide written evaluations and treatment plans (there is a cost for this program).

SOURCE REFERENCE McLellan, A.T., Luborsky, L., O'Brien, C.P. & Woody, G.E. (1980). An improved diagnostic instrument for substance abuse patients: The Addiction Severity Index. *Journal of Nervous & Mental Diseases*, 168, 26-33.

SUPPORTING REFERENCES Butler, S.F., Budman, S.H., Goldman, R.J., Newman, F.L., Beckley, K.E., Trottier, D. & Cacciola, J.S. (2001). Initial validation of a computer-administered Addiction Severity Index: The ASI-MV. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, 15(1), 4-12.
Leonhard, C., Mulvey, K., Gastfriend, D.R. & Shwartz, M. (2000). Addiction Severity Index: A field study of internal consistency and validity. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 18(2), 129-135.
Moos, R.H., Finney, J.W., Ferderman, E.B. & Suchinsky, R. (2000). Specialty mental health care improves patients' outcomes: Findings from nationwide program to monitor the quality of care for patients with substance use disorders. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 61(5), 704-713.
Rosen, C.S., Henson, B.R., Finney, J.W. & Moos, R.H. (2000). Consistency of self-administered and interview-based Addiction Severity Index composite scores. *Addiction*, 95(3), 419-425.