

Alcohol Craving Questionnaire (ACQ-NOW)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The ACQ-NOW is a 47-item self-administered, multidimensional state measure of acute alcohol craving adapted from the Cocaine Craving Questionnaire of Tiffany et al. As such, it measures four dimensions (subscales) of alcohol craving labeled Emotionality, Purposefulness, Compulsivity, and Expectancy. It takes 5 to 10 minutes to complete for persons with a seventh grade reading level or above. The ACQ-NOW also has been modified into a short form, the ACQ-SF-R, that contains 12 items strongly correlated with the four subscales and total ACQ score. It has moderate to high reliability (alpha) and is sensitive to change.

TARGET POPULATION

Adults

Adolescents (over 16 years)

Groups for which this instrument might be especially helpful?

All current drinkers

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Number of items: 47

Number of subscales: 4

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

Interview

Observation

Computer self-administered

Other

Time required for administration: 5 to 10 minutes

Administered by: *Self*

Training required for administration? yes no

Comments: *Comes with a manual (Singleton et al., 2000) that contains standard instruction for completing the items, practice sheet, ACQ-NOW, ACQ-SF-R, and ACQHISTORY, which consists of 26 questions pertaining to demographics, patterns of alcohol use, and other craving-relevant variables.*

SCORING

Time required to score/interpret: *Approximately 5 minutes*

Scored by: *Clinician or research assistant*

Scoring key? yes no

Computerized scoring or interpretation available? yes no

Norms available? yes no

Instrument normed on subgroups? yes no

Comments: *Manual (Singleton et al., 2000) contains background, reliability and validity analyses, scoring keys, and subscale 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

It has been shown to correlate with other multidimensional measures and visual analogs used to monitor changes in levels of craving from pretreatment through posttreatment.

RESEARCH APPLICABILITY

A prominent component among users not attempting abstinence is a marked relationship between stated intention to use alcohol and urges and desires to drink. There is also a positive correlation for urges and desires to drink with frequency of daily drinking in the last 30 days and personality traits, including extraversion, openness, and neuroticism.

SOURCE, COST AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES

Copyright: yes no

Cost: None (public domain)

Source: Questionnaires and manual available in hardcopy or as MS Word or text E-mail attachment from:

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SOURCE REFERENCE

Singleton, E.G., Tiffany, S.T. & Henningfield, J.E. (1995). Development and validation of a new questionnaire to assess craving for alcohol. *Problems of Drug Dependence, 1994: Proceeding of the 56th Annual Meeting, The College on Problems of Drug Dependence, Inc., Volume II: Abstracts*. NIDA Research Monograph 153. Rockville, MD: National Institute on Drug Abuse, p. 289.

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Singleton, E.G., Tiffany, S.T. & Henningfield, J.E. (2000). *Alcohol Craving Questionnaire (ACQ-NOW): Background, Scoring, and Administration (Manual)*. Baltimore, MD: Intramural Research Program, National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Singleton, E.G., Heishman, S.J. & Henningfield, J.E. (1997). Cognitive features of human drug craving. *Problems of Drug Dependence, 1996: Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting, The College on Problems of Drug Dependence, Inc. Abstracts*. NIDA Research Monograph 174. Rockville, MD: National Institute on Drug Abuse, p. 185.