

Alcohol Expectancy Questionnaire (adult) (AEQ)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The AEQ is an empirically derived self-report form assessing diverse anticipated experiences associated with alcohol use. The revised adult version is a refined compilation of 120 verbatim statements of adult men (53 percent) and women (47 percent) ages 15 to 60 years, with diverse ethnic backgrounds and drinking histories (from nondrinkers to chronic alcoholics). The adult version is designed to assess the domain of alcohol reinforcement expectancies and consists of six factor-analytically derived subscales: (1) positive global changes in experience, (2) sexual enhancement, (3) social and physical pleasure, (4) assertiveness, (5) relaxation/tension reduction, and (6) arousal/interpersonal power. The AEQ has been evaluated in clinical and nonclinical populations, and a number of research-specific derivations have been developed. The AEQ total score (based usually on 90 items) and subscale scores are predictive of current and future drinking practices, persistence and participation in treatment, and relapse following treatment.

TARGET POPULATION

Adults

Adolescents

Groups for which this instrument might be especially helpful?

Over 18 years of age

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Number of items: *120 (90 scored)*

Number of subscales: *6*

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

Interview

Observation

Computer self-administered

Other

Time required for administration: *10 to 15 minutes*

Administered by: *Self or personnel*

Training required for administration? yes no

Comments: *Translated versions are also available (German, Spanish).*

SCORING Computerized scoring or interpretation available? yes no (*Teleform Software package and scanner required*)
Norms available? 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 AEQ plays an integral part in the explication of personally perceived reinforcement from alcohol use, as related to both the initiation and maintenance of alcohol use; assists in explaining expectancy-related factors involved in the relapse process; can guide efforts to identify addiction risk; and may be used to profitably assign treatment resources based on pre-existing expectancies, as well as indicate areas in which adjunctive treatment may be indicated.

RESEARCH APPLICABILITY A majority of interactionist theories in the etiology and maintenance of addiction, as well as relapse, postulate an expectancy process. For example, the AEQ has been found to mediate the influence of a variety of risk factors (e.g., personality variable, family history). This well-documented instrument provides a means of quantifying this domain. Previous research has found changes in AEQ measured expectancies to be predictive of future drinking and associated with changes in drinking.

SOURCE, COST AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES Copyright: yes no
Cost: *Not applicable*
Source: *The AEQ may be obtained for research purposes through requests in writing to the authors:*
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SOURCE REFERENCE

Brown, S.A., Christiansen, B.A. & Goldman, M.S. (1987). The Alcohol Expectancy Questionnaire: An instrument for the assessment of adolescent and adult alcohol expectancies. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 48, 483-491.

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

McCarthy, D.M., Kroll, L.S. & Smith, G.T. (2001). Integrating disinhibition and learning risk for alcohol use. *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology*, 9(4), 389-398.

McCarthy, D.M., Miller, T.L., Smith, G.T. & Smith, J.A. (2001). Disinhibition and expectancy in risk for alcohol use: Comparing Black and White college samples. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 62(3), 313-321.

Goldman, M.S., Darkes, J. & Del Boca, F.K. (1999). Expectancy mediation of biopsychosocial risk for alcohol use and alcoholism. In Kirsch, E.I. (Ed.), *How Expectancies Shape Experience*. (pp. 233-262). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.