

## 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*

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

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.

RESEARCH APPLICABILITY

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.

SOURCE, COST AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES

Copyright:  yes  no

Cost: *None*

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SOURCE REFERENCE

Mann, R.E., Sobell, L.C., Sobell, M.B. & Sobell, D.P. (1985). Reliability of a family tree questionnaire for assessing family history of alcohol problems. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 15, 61-67.

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

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