

Impaired Control Scale (ICS)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION	The ICS is a three-part instrument measuring (1) the degree to which a subject has attempted to exercise control over drinking in the last month, (2) the degree of success in controlling drinking in the last 6 months, and (3) the subject's belief in his or her ability to control drinking if it were attempted.
TARGET POPULATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Adolescents Groups for which this instrument might be especially helpful? Individuals with any degree of alcohol dependence
ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES	Number of items: 25 Number of subscales: 3 Format(s): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pencil-and-paper self-administered <input type="checkbox"/> Interview <input type="checkbox"/> Observation <input type="checkbox"/> Computer self-administered <input type="checkbox"/> Other Time required for administration: 5 to 10 minutes Administered by: <i>Clinician</i> Training required for administration? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no Comments: <i>Self-administered, but interviewer should be present in case of difficulties. For reliability, the ICS should be administered by someone with clinical experience in the treatment of alcohol problems.</i>

SCORING

Time required to score/interpret: 2 to 3 minutes

Scored by: Administrator

Computerized scoring or interpretation available? yes no

Norms available? yes no

Instrument normed on subgroups? yes no

Which groups? *Clinical sample of problem drinkers and normal, non-problem samples. A new scoring method has been developed (the substitution method) that combines Parts 2 and 3 and gives a score for all respondents, irrespective of whether they have tried to control drinking in the last 6 months or not.*

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

Usefulness in assessment of alcohol problems. Possibly differential assignment to moderation or abstinence treatment goals.

RESEARCH APPLICABILITY

To investigate phenomenon of impaired control; to investigate alcohol dependencies generally; matching studies of treatment outcome; possible predictor of treatment outcome

SOURCE, COST AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES

Copyright: yes no

Cost: None

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SOURCE REFERENCES

- Heather, N., Booth, P. & Luce, A. (1998). Impaired Control Scale: Cross-validation and relationship with treatment outcome. *Addiction*, 93(5), 761-771.
- Heather, N., Tebbott, J.S., Mattick, R.P. & Zamir, R. (1993). Development of a scale for measuring impaired control over alcohol consumption: A preliminary report. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 54(6): 700-709.