

## Important People and Activities Instrument (IPA)

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The IPA assesses the person's involvement in their social network and activities, and the support of the social network and activities of the person's drinking and abstinence. The time window for self-reported observation is adjustable. The usual period is either the past 4 months or the past 6 months. The instrument includes key questions, with other questions adapted to fit the purposes of its use. Subsequent, shorter versions of the IPA have been implemented in more recent studies, but do not have established psychometric properties.

### TARGET POPULATION

- Adults
- Adolescents (over 16 years)

#### **Groups for which this instrument might be especially helpful?**

Treatment-seeking people with alcohol problems

### ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Number of items: 19

Number of subscales:

- Format(s):  Pencil-and-paper self-administered
- Interview
  - Observation
  - Computer self-administered
  - Other

Time required for administration: 20 to 30 minutes

Administered by: *Research assistant*

Training required for administration?  yes  no

Comments: *2 hours of training are sufficient*

### SCORING

Time required to score/interpret: 30 minutes

Scored by: *Research assistant*

Scoring key?  yes  no

Computerized scoring or interpretation available?  yes  no

Norms available?  yes  no

Instrument normed on subgroups?  yes  no

Which groups? *Alcohol-dependent, treatment-seeking aftercare patients and outpatients*

Comments: *Project MATCH OPT and Aftercare samples*

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 IPA can assist the clinician in developing a treatment plan for the patient in terms of inclusion/exclusion of members of patient's social network in treatment, what to focus on with these members, and assisting patient in finding ways to either reduce the negative influence of his/her network or utilize them more effectively in promoting recovery.

RESEARCH APPLICABILITY

Prognostic indicator of drinking outcome, client-treatment matching

SOURCE, COST AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES

Copyright:  yes  no

Cost: *None*

Source: Richard Longabaugh, Ed.D.

Brown University

Potter Building

Center for Alcohol & Addiction Studies

345 Blackstone Boulevard, Box G-BH

Room 303

Providence, RI 02906

## SOURCE REFERENCES

- Zywiak, W.H., Longabaugh, R. & Wirtz, P.W. (2002). Decomposing the relationships between pretreatment social network characteristics and alcohol treatment outcome. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 63(1), 114-121.
- Longabaugh, R. (2001). Manual for the administration of the Important People Instrument adapted for use for BST Decision Trees, Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI.
- Longabaugh, R. & Zywiak, W. (1999). Manual for the administration of the Important People Instrument adapted for use by Project COMBINE, Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI.
- Longabaugh, R., Wirtz, P.W., Zweben, A. & Stout, R.L. (1998). Network support for drinking, Alcoholics Anonymous and long-term matching effect. *Addiction*, 93(9), 1313-1333.
- Clifford, P.R. & Longabaugh, R. (1991). Manual for the administration of the Important People and Activities Instrument. Adapted for use by Project MATCH for NIAAA 5R01AA06698-05 Environmental Treatment of Alcohol Abusers, Richard Longabaugh, Principal Investigator.

## SUPPORTING REFERENCES

- Longabaugh, R., Wirtz, P.W., Zweben, A. & Stout, R. (2001). Network support for drinking. In Longabaugh, R. & Wirtz, P.W. (Eds.), *Project MATCH Hypotheses: Results and Causal Chain Analyses*. Project MATCH Monograph Series, Vol. 8. Bethesda, MD: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.
- Holder, H.D., Cisler, R., Longabaugh, R., Stout, R.L., Treno, A.J. & Zweben, A. (2000). Alcoholism treatment and medical care costs and benefits from Project MATCH. *Addiction* 95(7), 999-1013.
- Beattie, M.C. & Longabaugh, R. (1999). General and alcohol-specific social support following treatment. *Addictive Behaviors*, 24(5), 593-606.
- Project MATCH Research Group (1999). Matching patients with alcohol disorders to treatments: Clinical implications from Project MATCH. *Journal of Mental Health*, 7(6), 589-602.
- Project MATCH Research Group (1998). Matching alcoholism treatments to client heterogeneity: Project MATCH three-year drinking outcomes. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, 22(6a), 1300-1311.
- Beattie, M. & Longabaugh, R. (1997). Interpersonal factors and post-treatment drinking and subject well-being. *Addiction*, 92(11), 1507-1521.
- Rice, C., Longabaugh, R. & Stout, R.L. (1997). A comparison sample validation of "Your Workplace": An instrument to measure alcohol support and consequences at work. *Addictive Behaviors*, 22(5), 711-722.
- Longabaugh, R., Wirtz, P.W., Beattie, M.C., Noel, N. & Stout, R.L. (1995). Matching treatment focus to patient social investment and support: 18-month follow-up results. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 63(2), 296-307.