

Substance Abuse Module (SAM) Version 4.1

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The SAM is an expanded and more detailed version of the substance use section of the CIDI. The interview questions serve the diagnostic criteria of DSM-III, DSM-III-R, DSM-IV, and ICD-10 psychoactive substance use disorders. There are four diagnostic sections in the SAM. Section A contains demographic questions, Section B is for tobacco, Section C is for alcohol, Section D is for drugs, and Section E covers caffeine. The substances covered in Section D include amphetamines and other stimulants, cannabinoids, cocaine, PCP and other hallucinogens, inhalants, heroin and other opiates, barbiturates and other sedatives and tranquilizers. Club drugs are now included in the SAM. The SAM includes questions about onset and recency of specific symptoms, as well as the specific withdrawal symptoms and physical, social, and psychological consequences for each category of substances used by the respondent. Also included are the quantity and frequency of both the heaviest use and use in the past 12 months, age at first and last use, age at first and most recent symptoms, age that criteria were first and most recently met, and age(s) at remission(s). The SAM also assesses the respondent's impairment and treatment seeking.

TARGET POPULATION

- Adults
- Adolescents (over 16 years.)

Groups for which this instrument might be especially helpful?

Respondents 15 years of age or older with various educational and cultural backgrounds from both general and clinical populations (excluding severe mental retardation or severe organic brain syndrome)

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Number of items: 38

Number of subscales: 3

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

Interview

Observation

Computer self-administered

Other

Time required for administration: 30 to 45 minutes

Administered by: *Lay interviewer or clinician*

Training required for administration? yes no

SCORING

Time required to score/interpret: *Virtually immediate*

Scored by: *Computer; there is currently no data entry program available for the paper/pen version*

Scoring key? yes no

Computerized scoring or interpretation available? yes no

Norms available? yes no

Instrument normed on subgroups? 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

In a clinical setting, the SAM can assess substance use disorders quickly and accurately.

RESEARCH APPLICABILITY

The SAM allows nonclinicians to administer an interview that assesses drug use, abuse, and dependence, which is a topic of increasing concern for many researchers.

SOURCE, COST AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES

Copyright: yes no

Cost: *Paper/pen, \$35.00; computerized, \$500.00*

Source: *The CIDI-SAM was developed at Washington University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry. The assessment can be ordered through the Web site: <http://epi.wustl.edu>.*

SOURCE REFERENCE

Cottler, L.B. (2000). *Composite International Diagnostic Interview—Substance Abuse Module (SAM)*. St. Louis, MO: Department of Psychiatry, Washington University School of Medicine.