

15974

**Measure Review Information**

Detailed information about this measure

**Adolescent Coping Orientation for Problem Experiences ( A-COPE )****Basic Information****Author(s):**

Patterson, J.M., &amp; McCubbin, H.I.

**Author Contact:**Hamilton McCubbin, Ph.D.  
(see email)**Citation:**Patterson, J. M. & McCubbin, H.I. (1987). Adolescent coping style and behaviors: conceptualizations and measurement. *Journal of Adolescence*, 10, 153-186.  
McCubbin, H.I., & Thompson, A.I. (Eds.). (1987). *Family assessment inventories for research and practice*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.**To Obtain:**

Contact author.

The items are also available in Patterson &amp; McCubbin (1987) and on the website (below).

**Email:** [hamiltonmccubbin@earthlink.net](mailto:hamiltonmccubbin@earthlink.net)**Website:** [chipts.ucla.edu/assessment/Assessment\\_Instruments/Assessment\\_files\\_new/assess\\_acope.htm](http://chipts.ucla.edu/assessment/Assessment_Instruments/Assessment_files_new/assess_acope.htm)**Cost:** Free**Copyright:** Yes**Description:**

The Adolescent Coping Orientation for Problem Behaviors (A-COPE) is a 54 item self-report questionnaire used to identify coping strategies employed by adolescents.

**Theoretical Orientation Summary:**

Integrated coping theory and family stress theory to assess adolescent coping behaviors and style.

**Domains Assessed:**

Coping repertoire / skills / style - maladaptation

**Languages:**Arabic  
English (USA)  
French  
Spanish  
Swedish**Age Range:** 11-18 Years **Measure Type:** General Assessment

**Number of Items:** 54 **Measure Format:** Questionnaire

**Time to Complete:** 10 **Reporter:** Self

**Score Time:** 5 **Education Level:** 99

**Periodicity:** not provided

**Response Format:**

5-point Likert scale: 1=never, 2=hardly ever, 3=sometimes, 4=often, 5=most of the time

**Materials Needed:**

Paper and pencil

**Materials Notes:**

Age range, time to complete, and time to score are estimates given the length of the scale and data provided in articles regarding the ages of the adolescents with which the measure has been used. Data on education level needed are missing.

**Information Provided:**

Areas of concern/risks  
Continuous assessment  
Raw Scores  
Strengths



## Training

**Training to Administer:**

Not Available

**Training to Interpret:**

Not Available

**Training Notes:**

No training information was noted in any article.



## Psychometrics

**Global Rating:** Basic properties established by author(s)

**Norms:**

None.

## Pros and Cons

**Pros:**

1. A comprehensive self-report questionnaire investigating coping skills.
2. The items are short and easy to understand.
3. Has been used with diverse populations, and versions (altered) exist in multiple languages including Spanish and Chinese.

4. Although the measure is often scored differently across studies, examinations of correlations with A-COPE-derived scales generally seem to be showing that the items are tapping important aspects of adolescent coping.

5. The measure is free.

**Cons:**

1. The A-COPE appears to have been scored differently, depending on the study and population. People do not appear to adhere to single standard for scoring the measure. Thus, while the measure taps important constructs, it is difficult to use the measure to compare across studies and to even know how to score the measure.

2. Test-retest reliability has not yet been established.

3. As the original A-COPE was developed based on junior and senior high school students, some researchers (Copeland & Hess, 1995) suggest creating a separate factor structure for early adolescents for better understanding of how coping changes through adolescence and for greater specificity.



## Author Comments

**Author Comments:**

Dr. Patterson provided comment on the review. Dr. Hamilton could not be contacted.

**Citation for Review:**

Deborah Augenbraun, Ph.D., Chandra Ghosh Ippen, Ph.D.

**Editor of Review:**

Chandra Ghosh Ippen, Ph.D.

**Last Updated:**

2005-07-06

**PDF Available:**

Yes

## Assets

None



The NCTSN is funded by the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and jointly coordinated by UCLA and Duke University.

[Disclaimer](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Glossary](#)

▶ Login

**Accession No.** 15974

**Title:** Adolescent Coping Orientation for Problem Experiences (A-COPE): Measure Review Information

**Author(s):** National Child Traumatic Stress Network

**Year:** 2005

**Format:** Assessment Tool Review

**Language:** English

**Organization:** National Child Traumatic Stress Network

**Source:** Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

**Abstract:** This three-page document is a review of a tool to assess coping strategies among adolescents. The review provides general information about the authorship and availability of the assessment tool. The reviewing authors describe the theoretical orientation of the instrument - an integration of coping theory and family stress theory. They identify the age range for the tool as 11 to 18. In addition to describing the type of questions and the response scale, the authors of this review present the pros and cons of utilizing this particular assessment tool.

**Availability:** National Child Traumatic Stress Network, University of California, Los Angeles, 11150 West Olympic Boulevard, Suite 650, Los Angeles, CA 90064; Telephone: (310) 235-2633, Fax: (310) 235-2612, Web site: [www.nctsnet.org](http://www.nctsnet.org)

**Notes:** Publication downloaded from the Internet