Adolescent Coping Orientation for Problem Experiences (A-COPE)

Basic Information

Author(s):
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(see email)

Citation:

To Obtain:
Contact author.
The items are also available in Patterson & McCubbin (1987) and on the website (below).

Email: hamiltonmccubbin@earthlink.net

Website: 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 a 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
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.