

**SACA Sibling**  
*Grade 12/Year 13*  
Fast Track Project Technical Report  
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**Citation**

*Instrument*

Stiffman, A. R., Horwitz, S. M., Hoagwood, K., Compton, W., Cottler, L., Bean, D. L., Narrow, W. E., & Weisz, J.R. (2000). The Service Assessment for Children and Adolescents (SACA): Adult and child reports. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 39(8), 1032-1039.

*Report*

Godwin, J. (2011). SACA Sibling (Fast Track Project Technical Report) [On-line]. Available: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org/>

**Data Sources**

*Raw:* P13AJ

*Scored:* MHS13

**I. Scale Description**

SACA Siblings is a brief version of the SACA (Stiffman et al., 2000) administered to parents in order to collect information on the use of services by the siblings of Fast Track participants. The measure includes 5 'gate-level' questions about services for emotional, behavioral, drug or alcohol problems in the previous 2 years from 5 different types of facilities: inpatient, outpatient, school special education, foster care, and family preservations services. If a parent reports that a sibling used such services, the name and location for up to 3 facilities are collected.

The measure also collects information about sibling police contact including:

- Whether sibling had any police contact over the siblings lifetime
- Age at first police contact
- Number of times arrested in last 12 months
- Number of contacts without arrest in last 12 months
- Whether sibling spent time in a detention center prior to trial (If yes, total days in a detention center and the name and location of up to 5 facilities)
- Number of times sibling appeared in court in last 12 months (Including name and location of up to 3 facilities)
- Whether sibling was convicted of a crime (If yes, description of up to 8 offenses for which convicted)
- Whether sibling was sentenced to time in a detention center (If yes, length of sentence sentences as well as the name and location of up to 5 facilities).

## **II. Report Sample**

Fast Track only collects data for one sibling of each study child if the study child has a biological sibling that meets the following criteria. A study child's next youngest biological sibling was eligible to be interviewed if that sibling lived with the study child and had completed kindergarten in year 6 of the Fast Track program.

In year 13, this sample included 51 siblings in the control sample and 115 siblings from the normative sample for a total N of 149, with the overlap.

## **III. Scaling**

Seven dichotomous scales were derived for this measure. Below each scale name are the items captured by the general scale score. If a parent reports use for any item in the list, the scale is coded one. If any item is missing and none of the non-missing items indicate service use, the scale is coded missing.

1. Any inpatient services for emotional, behavioral, drug or alcohol problems in last 2 years (mhs13inp), examples include:
  - Psychiatric hospital services
  - General hospital services
  - Residential treatment center services
2. Any outpatient services for emotional, behavioral, drug or alcohol problems in last 2 years (mhs13out), examples include:
  - Mental health center services
  - Drug and alcohol clinic services
  - In-school counselor services
  - Psychologist or social worker services
3. Any special education services at school in last 2 years (mhs13sed)
4. Used foster care in last 2 years (mhs13fos)
5. Any family preservation services in last 2 years (mhs13fam)
6. Any police contact in the last 2 years (mhs13pol)
7. Arrested in last 12 months (mhs13arr)

## **IV. Differences between Groups**

Chi-Square tests of independence between the high-risk control and the low-risk normative sample were conducted for the 7 scales.

The results for many of the tests, however, are questionable given the low frequency of use for many services. A test may not be valid if fewer than 5 respondents in a sample (normative or control) were expected to meet the diagnosis criteria (or the diagnosis plus impairment criteria). An \* indicates that fewer than 5 respondents in both samples were expected to meet the criteria, while an \*\* indicates that fewer than 5 respondents in one sample were expected to meet the criteria.

The hypotheses of independence between risk category (high-risk control and normative) and the scales were rejected at the 0.05 significance level for the following scales:

- Any outpatient services in last 2 years
- Any special education services at school in last 2 years
- Any police contact

The high risk control sample had rates higher than the normative sample for all scales except use of foster care services in last 2 years and use of family preservation services in last 2 years.

Chi Square Test for Normative and Control for Dichotomous Scored Variables								
Variable		Pct Used Services		DF	N	Chi Square Statistic	P-value	
		Norm	Control					
Sibling received any inpatient services last 2 yrs yr13	mhs13inp	0.01	0.07	1	133	3.43	0.06	*
Sibling received any outpatient services last 2 yrs yr13	mhs13out	0.04	0.14	1	133	3.78	0.05	**
Sibling received any special ed services last 2 yrs yr13	mhs13sed	0.16	0.33	1	133	5.06	0.02	
Sibling received any foster care last 2 yrs yr13	mhs13fos	0.00	0.00	1	133	0.97	0.32	
Sibling received any family preservation services last 2 yrs yr13	mhs13fam	0.02	0.00	1	133	2.23	0.14	*
Sibling ever had police contact yr13	mhs13pol	0.08	0.16	1	133	7.47	0.01	**
Sibling arrested last year yr13	mhs13arr	0.01	0.12	1	133	3.43	0.06	*

## V. Recommendations for Use

The SACA Siblings provides information on mental health service use by the study child's next youngest sibling. The information on service use is limited to any use in the past year. However, the measure provides much more detailed data regarding arrests among the siblings and the outcome of those arrests.

Analysts should note the degree of response for services before generating descriptive statistics or using outcomes in statistical models. In general, most distributions will be 'zero-modal' so examination of distribution characteristics is highly advised.