

SACA Not So Brief: Parent
Grade 8/Year 9

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

Jones, D. E and Godwin, J. (2010). SACA Not So Brief: Parent (Technical Report) [On-line]. Available: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org/>

Data Sources

Raw: p9ad

Scored: mhn9

I. Scale Description

Four versions of the SACA have been administered over time. The table below describes which versions were administered over time and across cohorts. This report includes a description of all versions but only includes descriptive statistics for study year 8.

Grade	Study Year	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 3
6	7	SACA		SACA - Not So Brief
7	8	SACA - Brief	SACA - Not So Brief	
8	9	SACA - Not So Brief		SACA - Not So Brief Revised
9	10	SACA - Not So Brief	SACA - Not So Brief Revised	
10	11	SACA - Not So Brief Revised		
11	12	SACA - Not So Brief Revised		
12	13	SACA - Not So Brief Revised		

SACA –Full:

The SACA (Stiffman et al., 2000) collects parents' reports of their children's use of mental health services. Specifically, the measure asks about "any treatment or help your child may have received for emotional, behavioral, or drug or alcohol problems". The instrument includes a maximum of 331 questions (plus 10 introductory demographic questions). The initial items are 'gate-level' questions that ask about the child's lifetime use covering 23 different categories of inpatient and outpatient service use plus additional questions regarding police contact.

Inpatient service providers include:

1. Psychiatric hospital
2. Psychiatric or medical unit in a general hospital
3. Drug or alcohol treatment unit
4. Residential treatment center
5. Group home
6. Foster home
7. Detention center, prison or jail
8. Emergency shelter
9. Any other place like a summer treatment program or boarding school

Outpatient service providers include:

1. Mental health clinic
2. Professionals like a psychologist, psychiatrist, social worker, or marriage or family counselor
3. Partial hospitalization or day treatment program
4. Drug or alcohol clinic
5. In-Home therapist or counselor, or family preservation worker
6. Emergency room
7. Pediatrician or family doctor
8. Probation or juvenile corrections officer or court counselor
9. Priest, minister, rabbi, or spiritual counselor
10. Healer, shaman, or curandero
11. Acupuncturist, or chiropractor
12. Self-help group like Alcoholics Anonymous or peer counseling
13. Respite care provider
14. Services at school

If a parent reports that their child never received any services, he/she is only asked these initial 25 questions. Any use over a child's lifetime for a particular category (e.g., psychiatric hospital) leads to a separate section with more in-depth questions about service use in the past 12 months, including (1) when the child first received services, (2) name and address of most recent service provider, (3) total number of days served, (4) child's reaction to services, (5) who referred the child to services, and (6) who paid for the services. The number and type of follow-up questions vary slightly between categories.

The SACA also asks whether the child was ever arrested, picked up, or given a warning by the police. If yes, follow-up questions collect information on the number of police contacts in the child's lifetime, his/her age at first contact, his/her worst offense, and the outcome of his/her most recent police contact.

SACA –Brief:

In year 8, a very brief questionnaire consisting of 27 items culled from the original instrument was given in place of the original SACA. The measure includes 4 'gate-level' questions about services for emotional, behavioral, drug or alcohol problems in the previous 12 months (not over the child's lifetime) including inpatient facilities, outpatient services, school services, and police contact. Follow-up questions ask about whether these services included specific types of facilities and about the frequency, age at first use and length of use across all types of facilities/services. These questions are not asked individually for

each specific type of facility/provider.

SACA –Not So Brief:

Beginning in year 9, a new survey of service use was created by the Fast Track Project which was based on the original SACA. This version asks the parent a maximum of 154 questions that cover 16 categories of service use as well as police contact. As with the original SACA, parents are asked a minimum of one question per category and answer more detailed questions if they indicate that their child had used a particular service-type. Follow-up questions within a category are similar to the original SACA (e.g., extent of service use in the past year, amount of money spent on services, payment sources, etc.).

One distinction between this new version and the original version of the SACA is that service-use is recorded regardless of whether the child was seen for emotional/behavioral problems. Within each general health-type service category (e.g., emergency room or family doctor), parents report whether the child's visit was for emotional/behavioral reasons or for general health reasons.

Inpatient service providers include:

1. Psychiatric hospital
2. General hospital
3. Residential treatment center
4. Group home
5. Foster home
6. Emergency shelter
7. Overnight stay in other facility

Outpatient service providers include:

1. Mental health center
2. Day treatment or partial hospitalization
3. Drug and alcohol clinic
4. In-home therapists or family preservation workers
5. Respite care
6. Counselors and therapists
7. Counseling in school
8. Emergency room
9. Pediatrician or family doctor

This new version of the SACA also asks more detailed questions about police contact, including the number of arrests in past 12 months, the number of non-arrest police contacts, the amount of time spent in detention facilities before trial, the number of court appearances, outcomes from court appearances, and the offenses for which the child was adjudicated.

SACA –Not So Brief Revised:

Beginning in year 11, a revised version of SACA-Not So Brief was administered. All of the original items were included and some additional information was also collected. The revised version asks whether the child has health care insurance and collects the provider's name when applicable. In addition, the original SACA only recorded whether Fast Track personnel referred the child to a service, whereas the revised version records whether anyone has referred the child to a service. The revised school counseling section divides counseling/services into mental health services and other. It also includes questions about whether school counselors referred the child to additional services outside the school. Finally, the revised police contact section captures whether the juvenile court referred the child to additional services.

II. Report Sample

The explanatory analyses in this report are conducted on the Cohort 1 normative (n=387) and high-risk control samples (n=155, N=463 with overlap) in grade 8/year 9. Ninety-five parents did not complete the entire measure (21% of the sample), including 82 from the normative sample (21% of the sample) and 29 from the high-risk control sample (19% of the sample). Parents who did not complete the measure include 18 from Durham (14%), 33 from Nashville (31%), 20 from Penn State (16%), and 24 from Seattle (22%).

III. Scaling

Six dichotomous scales were derived for this measure. Below each scale name are the items captured by the general scale score. If a parent reported service use for any item in the list, the scale was coded one. If an item was missing and none of the non-missing items indicated service use, the scale was coded as missing.

Any Inpatient Services for Any Reason Ever

- Psychiatric hospital services ever
- General hospital services ever
- Residential treatment center services ever
- Group home services ever
- Foster home services ever
- Emergency shelter services ever
- Overnight in other facility services ever

Any Inpatient Services for Any Reason Last Year

- Psychiatric hospital services last year
- General hospital services last year
- Residential treatment center services last year
- Group home services last year
- Foster home services last year
- Emergency shelter services last year
- Overnight in other facility services last year

Any Inpatient Services for Mental Health Reasons Last Year

- Psychiatric hospital services last year
- General hospital services for mental health reasons last year
- Residential treatment center services last year
- Group home services last year
- Emergency shelter services for mental health reasons last year
- Overnight in other facility services for mental health reasons last year

Any Outpatient Services for Any Reason Ever

- Mental health center services ever
- Day treatment or partial hospitalization services ever
- Drug and alcohol clinic services ever
- In-home therapists or family preservation workers services ever
- Respite care services ever
- Counselors and therapists services ever
- Counseling in school ever

- Emergency room services ever
- Pediatrician or family doctor services ever

Any Outpatient Services for Any Reason Last Year

- Mental health center services last year
- Day treatment or partial hospitalization last year
- Drug and alcohol clinic services last year
- In-home therapists or family preservation worker services last year
- Respite care last year
- Counselors and therapists services last year
- Counseling in school last year
- Emergency room services last year
- Pediatrician or family doctor services last year

Any Outpatient Services for Mental Health Reasons Last Year

- Mental health center services last year
- Day treatment or partial hospitalization services last year
- Drug and alcohol clinic services last year
- In-home therapists or family preservation workers services last year
- Counselors and therapists services last year
- Emergency room services for mental health reasons last year
- Pediatrician or family doctor services for mental health reasons last year

IV. Differences Between Groups

Chi-Square tests of independence between the high-risk control and the low-risk normative sample were conducted for 6 scales and select police contact items. While not discussed in the text, the table includes results for items used to construct the 6 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 service 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, indicating that the high risk control sample had a higher rate of use than the normative sample for the following services:

- Any inpatient services for any reason ever
- Any outpatient services for mental health reasons last year
- Ever arrested or warned by police
- Ever arrested during the last 12 months
- Ever appeared in court during the last 12 months
- Ever spent time in jail or juvenile home in the last 12 months*

The high-risk control and normative samples did not significantly differ in their use of other services.

Chi Square Test for Normative and Control for Dichotomous Scored Variables							
Variable	Percent of the Sample that Used Services		DF	N	Chi Square Statistic	P-value	
	Norm	Control					

Any inpatient care for any reason ever	mhn9iav	0.15	0.24	1	367	4.65	0.03	
Ever received psychiatric hospital services	P9AD9	0.00	0.06	1	367	15.83	<.0001	**
Ever stayed overnight in a general hospital	P9AD54	0.12	0.14	1	367	0.60	0.44	
Ever received residential treatment services	P9AD101	0.00	0.02	1	367	1.43	0.23	*
Ever received group home services	P9AD146	0.01	0.02	1	367	1.52	0.22	*
Ever received foster home services	P9AD191	0.02	0.04	1	367	1.16	0.28	**
Ever received emergency shelter services	P9AD216	0.01	0.02	1	367	0.46	0.50	*
Ever stayed overnight in any other facility	P9AD224	0.00	0.03	1	368	4.71	0.03	*
Any inpatient care for any reason last year	mhn9iay	0.04	0.09	1	367	3.33	0.07	
Ever admitted to a psychiatric hospital in the last 12 months	P9AD10r	0.00	0.03	1	367	7.83	0.01	*
Ever stayed overnight in a general hospital in the last 12 months	P9AD55r	0.02	0.02	1	367	0.25	0.62	*
Ever received residential treatment services in the last 12 months	P9AD102r	0.00	0.01	1	367	0.23	0.63	*
Ever received group home services in the last 12 months	P9AD147r	0.01	0.02	1	367	1.52	0.22	*
Ever received foster home services in the last 12 months	P9AD192r	0.01	0.02	1	367	0.46	0.50	*
Ever received emergency shelter services in the last 12 months	P9AD217r	0.00	0.00	1	367	0.52	0.47	*
Ever stayed overnight in another facility in the last 12 months	P9AD225r	0.00	0.03	1	368	4.71	0.03	*
Any inpatient care for mental health reasons last year	mhn9imy	0.02	0.04	1	366	1.94	0.16	**
Any general hospital stays due to emotional, behavioral, or drug/alcohol problems?	P9AD77	0.00	0.01	1	367	1.94	0.16	*
Any emergency shelter visits because of emotional, behavioral, or drug/alcohol problems?	P9AD222	0.00	0.00		367			
Any other overnight admissions because of emotional, behavioral, or drug/alcohol problems?	P9AD252	0.00	0.02	1	367	1.43	0.23	*
Any outpatient care for any reason ever	mhn9oav	0.74	0.79	1	368	1.13	0.29	
Ever received outpatient mental health services	P9AD276	0.07	0.18	1	368	11.85	0.00	
Ever received day treatment services	P9AD303	0.00	0.06	1	368	10.30	0.00	**
Ever used a drug or alcohol clinic	P9AD347	0.01	0.02	1	368	1.49	0.22	*
Ever used in-home family services	P9AD374	0.01	0.10	1	367	16.33	<.0001	
Ever used respite care	P9AD418	0.00	0.02	1	368	1.41	0.23	*
Ever used any other counselor or therapist services	P9AD445	0.09	0.25	1	368	17.32	<.0001	
Ever used a school counselor	P9AD489	0.21	0.36	1	366	10.42	0.00	
Ever received treatment from an emergency room	P9AD508	0.38	0.43	1	367	0.92	0.34	
Ever used a family doctor	P9AD536	0.61	0.57	1	368	0.45	0.50	
Any outpatient care for any reason last year	mhn9oay	0.63	0.68	1	363	1.19	0.28	
Ever received outpatient mental health services in the last 12 months	P9AD277r	0.04	0.10	1	368	5.41	0.02	
Ever received day treatment in the last 12 months	P9AD304r	0.00	0.03	1	367	4.76	0.03	*
Ever used a drug/alcohol clinic in the last 12 months	P9AD348r	0.01	0.02	1	368	1.49	0.22	*
Ever used in-home family services in the last 12 months	P9AD375r	0.01	0.07	1	366	11.46	0.00	**
Ever used respite care in the last 12 months	P9AD419r	0.00	0.01	1	368	0.22	0.64	*
Ever used other counselor or therapist in the last 12 months	P9AD446r	0.05	0.10	1	368	3.09	0.08	

Ever used a school counselor in the last 12 months	P9AD490r	0.16	0.30	1	358	9.19	0.00	
Ever used emergency room in the last 12 months	P9AD509r	0.14	0.19	1	366	1.90	0.17	
Ever used family doctor in the last 12 months	P9AD537r	0.49	0.46	1	367	0.28	0.59	
Any outpatient care for mental health reason last year	mhn9omy	0.09	0.29	1	368	23.68	<.0001	
Emergency room services because of emotional, behavioral, or drug/alcohol problems in the last 12 months	P9AD513	0.00	0.03	1	367	4.76	0.03	*
Family doctor services because of emotional, behavioral, or drug/alcohol problems in the last 12 months	P9AD541	0.01	0.07	1	368	9.15	0.00	**
Ever arrested or warned by the police	P9AD565	0.09	0.25	1	368	18.79	<.0001	
Ever arrested in the last 12 months	P9AD567r	0.03	0.10	1	368	8.89	0.00	
Ever appeared in court in the last 12 months	P9AD586r	0.05	0.13	1	368	8.31	0.00	
Ever spent time in jail or a juvenile home in the last 12 months	P9AD597r	0.00	0.03	1	368	4.71	0.03	*

V. Recommendations for Use

The SACA Not So Brief provides general information about mental health service use. In addition to measuring lifetime service use, it also solicits more detailed information regarding recent service use (i.e., past 12 months). Analysts can examine group differences in degree and pattern of mental health service use as well as examine the relationship between characteristics of service use with predictors from other instruments.

Analysts should examine how many participants positively endorsed receiving services before generating descriptive statistics or using outcomes in statistical models. In general, most items will have a high number of participants who report not receiving any services (i.e., zeros), so examination of individual response distributions is highly advised.