

Religiosity Measure

Grade 8 /Year 9

Fast Track Project Technical Report

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Citation

Instrument

Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group (CPPRG). (1998). *Religiosity Measure*. Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Reports

Corrigan, A. (2003). *Religiosity Measure, Grade 8 /Year 9* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Data Sources

Unscored: C9AO

Scored: RLG9

I. Scale Description

The Religiosity Measure is a three-item instrument that estimates the religiosity of children in the early teen years. The Religiosity Measure was created for the Fast Track Project.

The Religiosity Measure contains two questions about a child's participation in activities at a church, temple, or mosque. A third question asks about the child's frequency of prayer activity during the past year.

For the first question (Item 1: "During the past year, did you attend a regular service at a church, mosque, or temple?"), response choices are "Yes" (1) and "No" (0). The second question (Item 2: "During the past year, how involved were you in the activities of your church, mosque or temple?") has choices including: "Not at all" (0), "No more than twice" (1), "4-5 times" (2), "At least once a month" (3), and "At least once a week" (4). The final question (Item 3: "During the past year, how often did you pray or look to a higher power for help with a problem?") has the choices: "No more than twice" (0), "4-5 times" (1), "At least once a month" (2), "At least once a week" (3), and "Daily" (4).

II. Report Sample

This report contains data collected on Cohort 1, Year 9. The data include a high-risk control sample (n=155) and a normative sample (n = 387) for a total N = 463, including overlap. One hundred twelve of the 463 are missing responses for the entire Religiosity Measure, including 82 from the normative group (15 from Durham, 19 from Washington, 18 from Pennsylvania, and 30 from Nashville), and 30 from the control group (including 5 from Durham, 10 from Nashville, 7 from Pennsylvania, and 8 from Washington), with overlap between the normative and control groups. These measures are not included in the analyses.

III. Scaling

The Religiosity Measure contains no subscales. The following tables show the count of responses for Items 2 and 3.

Normative Group

How involved in church/mosque/temple activities? – Normative					
Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent	
Not at all 0	110	36.07	110	36.07	
No more than twice 1	34	11.15	144	47.21	
4-5 times 2	45	14.75	189	61.97	
At least once a month 3	38	12.46	227	74.43	
At least once a week 4	78	25.57	305	100.00	

Frequency Missing = 82

How often did you pray/look to a higher power? – Normative					
Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent	
No more than twice 0	79	25.90	79	25.90	
4-5 times 1	42	13.77	121	39.67	
At least once a month 2	34	11.15	155	50.82	
At least once a week 3	52	17.05	207	67.87	
Daily 4	98	32.13	305	100.00	

Frequency Missing = 82

Control Group

How involved in church/mosque/temple activities? – Control					
Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent	
Not at all 0	54	43.20	54	43.20	
No more than twice 1	14	11.20	68	54.40	
4-5 times 2	11	8.80	79	63.20	
At least once a month 3	8	6.40	87	69.60	
At least once a week 4	38	30.40	125	100.00	

Frequency Missing = 30

How often did you pray/look to a higher power? – Control					
Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent	
No more than twice 0	40	32.00	40	32.00	
4-5 times 1	17	13.60	57	45.60	
At least once a month 2	13	10.40	70	56.00	
At least once a week 3	20	16.00	90	72.00	
Daily 4	35	28.00	125	100.00	

Frequency Missing = 30

IV. Differences Between Groups

T-tests of means of Item 2 (Involvement in activities of church/mosque/temple) and Item 3 (How often do you look to a higher power?) yielded the following results for the normative and control groups:

	Normative Sample		Control Sample		DF	t Value	Pr > t
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
Item 2 - Involved in activities of church/mosque/temple?	1.82	1.61	1.70	1.75	366	-0.67	0.50
Item 3 - How often do you look to a higher power?	2.21	1.60	1.94	1.65	366	-1.52	0.13

The frequency distribution of responses to Item 1 (“During the past year, did you attend a regular service at a church, mosque, or temple?”) is in the following table:

Attended a regular service?			
Response	Sample		
Frequency Col Pct	Control	Normative	Total
No (0)	55 44.00	82 33.74	137 37.23
Yes (1)	70 56.00	161 66.26	231 62.77
Total	125	243	368 100.00
Frequency Missing = 95			

A higher percentage of normative, compared to control respondents, regularly attend a religious service. With $\chi^2(1, N = 368) = 3.714, p = 0.053$ (rounded to 0.05), the hypothesis of independence between risk category (Normative or High-Risk Control) and regular attendance at a service can be rejected

V. Recommendations for Use

Chi-square results for Item 1 suggest that this item discriminates between normative and control respondents for Year 9. However, t-tests of means for Items 2 and 3 do not show significant differences between the normative and control groups. This measure, particularly Item 1, may be useful to analysts as an estimate of religiosity, depending on the construct of interest.

VI. Item and Scale Means and SDs

Means and Standard Deviations for the Religiosity Measure Cohort 1, Year 9, Normative Sample, Items 2 and 3

Variable	Label	Mean	N	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
C9AO2	Invol in church/mosque/temple activities	1.80	305	1.63	0.00	4.00
C9AO3	How often did you pray/look to a higher	2.16	305	1.62	0.00	4.00

Means and Standard Deviations for the Religiosity Measure Cohort 1, Year 9, Control Sample, Items 2 and 3

Variable	Label	Mean	N	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
C9AO2	Invol in church/mosque/temple activities	1.70	125	1.75	0.00	4.00
C9AO3	How often did you pray/look to a higher	1.94	125	1.65	0.00	4.00

VII. Item and Subscale Correlations

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 368			
Prob > r under H0: Rho=0			
	C9A01	C9A02	C9A03
C9A01 Attend regular service	1.000	0.678 0.000	0.440 0.000
C9A02 Involved in church-mosque-temple activities	0.678 0.000	1.000	0.433 0.000
C9A03 How often do you pray?	0.440 0.000	0.433 0.000	1.000