

Services Assessment for Young Adults (SACA for Young Adults)

Year 15

Fast Track Project Technical Report Damon Jones and Jennifer Godwin July 3, 2010

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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). Services Assessment for Children and Adolescents (SACA for Kids) (Technical Report) [On-line]. Available: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org/>

Data Sources

Raw: c15bq

Scored: mhy15

I. Scale Description

Two versions of the SACA have been administered to Fast Track participants over time. During study years 11 through 13, youth received the *SACA for Kids* measure. During study years 14 and 15, participants received the *SACA for Young Adults*.

SACA for Kids:

The SACA for Kids is an extremely limited version of the original SACA (Stiffman et al., 2000). It collects self-reported information on the use of mental health services in the past 2 years. If the youth endorses receiving services, the measure collects the facility name, city and state. The services included are:

- Inpatient care for emotional, behavioral, or drug or alcohol problems
- Outpatient care for emotional, behavioral, or drug or alcohol problems
- Special education services at school
- Foster care
- Preservation services or other services delivered to families

In addition, the measure asks whether youth ever had any police or court contact. If yes, respondents are asked their age at first contact and more detailed questions about police/court contact in the past 12 months. The additional questions gather information on the following:

- Number of arrests
- Number of non-arrest police contacts
- Time spent in jail prior to trial or release
- Number of court appearances
- Number of conviction
- Offenses for which convicted
- Length of sentence in detention facilities and the names of those facilities

SACA for Young Adults:

Beginning in year 14, a new measure of self-reported service use was used that closely resembles the *SACA-Not So Brief* and *SACA-Not So Brief Revised* measures that were administered to parents. One key difference is that youth are asked about services received at different health care facilities in the past 2 years rather than the last 12 months. If a young adult indicates that a particular type of service was used, detailed follow-up questions about use in past 2 years are asked (e.g., number of facilities, name and location of facilities, number of admissions/visits, number of nights admitted, who referred the youth to the service, and the source and amount of payment for the most recent admission/visit). If the provider is a general health provider, an additional question is asked to determine the proportion of admissions/visits that were for mental 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 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 (if the young adult has a child)
6. Counselors and therapists
7. Emergency room
8. Family doctor

In addition to service use, the measure also collects data on health care coverage, police/court contact, prescription drug use for mental health reasons, and special education services if youth attended secondary school in the past 2 years.

The health insurance coverage section asks whether the young adult currently has health insurance. If yes, the young adult is asked how long he/she has had coverage and the source of coverage. If no, the measure inquires about the length of time since he/she had coverage. All respondents are asked if they have ever been without insurance in past 2 years.

The prescription drug section asks whether youth received a written prescription for medication for mental health reasons in the past 2 years. If yes, the youth is asked more detailed questions about prescriptions for different mental health conditions (i.e., when medication was first prescribed, whether youth filled the prescription, and when the youth stopped taking the medication). The measure asks about prescriptions for the following problems:

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Anger
- ADHD
- Medications for other emotional, behavioral or substance abuse problems.

If youth attended secondary school in the past 2 years, he/she is asked a series of questions about special education services received including:

- Whether any services were received
- Whether youth had a IEP
- Special education classification
- Whether he/she attended special school
- Whether he/she was referred to additional services

II. Report Sample

The explanatory analyses in this report were conducted on the Cohort 1 normative (n=387) and high-risk control samples (n=155, N=463 with overlap) in year 15. Ninety three young adults did not complete the entire measure (20% of the sample), including 78 from the normative sample (20% of the sample) and 36 from the high-risk control sample (23% of the sample). The young adults who did not complete the measure include 20 from Durham (16%), 31 from Nashville (30%), 16 from Penn State (13%), and 26 from Seattle (23%).

III. Scaling

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

Any Inpatient Services for Any Reason in Last 2 Years

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

Any Inpatient Services for Mental Health Reasons in Last 2 Years

- Psychiatric hospital services
- General hospital services for mental health reasons
- Residential treatment center services
- Group home services

Any Outpatient Services for Any Reason in Last 2 Years

- Mental health center services
- Day treatment or partial hospitalization
- Drug and alcohol clinic services
- In-home therapists or family preservation worker services
- Counselors and therapists services
- Emergency room services
- Pediatrician or family doctor services

Any Outpatient Services for Mental Health Reasons in Last 2 Years

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

Any Arrests in the Last 2 Years

IV. Differences Between Groups

Chi-Square tests of independence between the high-risk control and the low-risk normative sample were conducted for the 4 scales and select police contact items. 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 higher rates than the lower risk normative sample for the following scales:

- Received services from a drug & alcohol clinic in past 2 years
- Received Special education Services from School in Past 2 Years
- Arrested in Last 2 years
- Appeared in Court in Last 2 Years
- Spent Time in Jail or Detention Center in Last 2 Years

The high risk control sample had significantly lower rates of use than the lower risk normative sample for the following scales:

- Any outpatient services for any reason in past 2 yrs
- Used Doctor Services in Last 2 Years for Any Reason

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 Used Services		DF	N	Chi Square Statistic	P-value
		Norm	Control				
Any inpatient services for any reason in past 2 years	mhy15ia2	0.14	0.11	1	359	0.56	0.46

Any inpatient services for mental health reason in past 2 years	mhy15im2	0.02	0.04	1	360	1.27	0.26	**
During the past two years, have you stayed overnight in a Psychiatric Hospital?	C15BQ06a	0.00	0.01	1	360	0.31	0.58	*
During the past two years, have you stayed overnight in a General Hospital?	C15BQ07a	0.14	0.09	1	361	1.82	0.18	
Gen Hosp: Services for emotional, behavioral, drug or alcohol problems?	C15BQ07f	0.01	0.01	1	361	0.08	0.78	*
During the past two years, have you stayed overnight in a residential treatment center?	C15BQ08a	0.01	0.02	1	361	0.64	0.43	*
During the past two years, have you stayed overnight in a Group Home?	C15BQ09a	0.00	0.01	1	361	0.32	0.57	*
During the past two years, have you stayed overnight in a Foster Home?	C15BQ10a	0.00	0.00	1	360	0.46	0.50	*
During the past two years, have you stayed overnight in an emergency shelter?	C15BQ11a	0.00	0.01	1	360	0.31	0.58	*
Have you received services from any other facility where you stayed overnight?	C15BQ12a	0.00	0.00	1	360	0.46	0.50	*
Any outpatient services for any reason in past 2 years?	mhy15oa2	0.64	0.50	1	360	6.17	0.01	
Any outpatient services for mental health reason in past 2 years?	mhy15om2	0.08	0.12	1	359	1.91	0.17	
Have you received services from a mental health center (MHC)?	C15BQ13a	0.03	0.04	1	360	0.12	0.73	**
Have you received day treatment services or partial hospitalization?	C15BQ14a	0.00	0.00	1	360	0.46	0.50	*
Have you received services from a drug & alcohol clinic (DR/AL Clinic)?	C15BQ15a	0.01	0.05	1	360	5.23	0.02	**
Have you received home therapy or family preservation services?	C15BQ16a	0.00	0.02	1	360	1.71	0.19	*
Have you received services from a counselor, therapist, psychiatrist, etc?	C15BQ18a	0.04	0.06	1	360	1.13	0.29	
Have you received services from an emergency room or urgent care facility?	C15BQ19a	0.24	0.33	1	360	3.14	0.08	
Were any of these visits the result of a drug or alcohol overdose?	C15BQ19e	0.00	0.00	1	360	0.46	0.50	*
ER or Urgent care: Were any of these visits the result of you trying to harm yourself?	C15BQ19g	0.00	0.01	1	360	0.31	0.58	*
Doctor: Have you been to a pediatrician or a family doctor?	C15BQ20a	0.52	0.30	1	359	15.24	<.0001	
Were visits the result of emotional, behavioral, academic, drug or alcohol problems?	C15BQ20e	0.01	0.01	1	359	0.09	0.77	*
Has anyone written you a prescription for behavioral/mental health/or emotional health?	C15BQ21a	0.06	0.07	1	360	0.11	0.74	

Did you receive special education services from your school?	C15BQ22b	0.01	0.11	1	358	19.78	<.0001	**
Have you been arrested, picked up, or questioned by the police.	C15BQ23a	0.28	0.36	1	359	2.73	0.10	
Any arrests in the past 2 years	mhy15ar2	0.11	0.21	1	357	6.18	0.01	
Have you made any court appearances related to criminal or delinquent acts?	C15BQ23e	0.15	0.24	1	356	4.61	0.03	
As a result of a conviction were you required to spend time in a juvenile detention center,...etc	C15BQ23o	0.02	0.12	1	355	12.64	0.00	

V. Recommendations for Use

The SACA for Young Adults provides extensive information on mental health service use. 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 note that the services included in the scales vary from the services included in the adult version of this measure (*SACA-Not So Brief* and *SACA-Not So Brief Revised*). In addition, the service use questions ask about past 2 years rather than past 12 months.

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 frequency of participants who report not receiving any services (i.e., zeros), so examination of individual response distributions is highly advised.