

## **Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST-20)**

Study Year 28

Fast Track Project Technical Report

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### **Citation**

#### *Instrument*

Skinner, H. A., & Goldberg, A. E. (1986). Evidence for a drug dependence syndrome among narcotic users. *Addiction*, 81(4), 479-484. doi: 10.1111/j.1360-0443.1986.tb00359.x

#### *Report*

Lu, A. and McCabe, G. (2022). Drug Abuse Screening Test (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project website: <http://www.fast-track-project.org>

### **Measure Description**

The Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST-20) is a 20-item (c28ds01- c28ds20) measure that assesses perceptions of a drug abuse problems, dependence symptoms, and consequences related to drug abuse during the previous 12 months. It is designed for clinical screening and treatment evaluation research. DAST-20 total scores have demonstrated high internal consistency ( $\alpha = .84$  to  $.94$ ; Skinner & Goldberg, 1986).

### **Report Sample**

This report provides descriptive statistics for the cohort 1 normative sample (original  $n=387$ ). In addition, this report compares the means for two additional samples: high-risk control sample from cohort 1 ( $n=155$ ) and the non-high-risk normative sample from cohort 1 ( $n=308$ ). The non-high-risk normative sample excludes the high-risk normative participants who are also a part of the high-risk normative sample ( $n=79$ ). In year 28, 288 cohort 1 normative participants, 104 high-risk control cohort 1 participants and 234 non-risk normative participants completed the survey. The DAST measure was completed by 285 normative participants, 103 high-risk control participants, and 232 non-high-risk normative participants in year 28.

### **Scaling**

The DAST-20 measure contains items from five domains: dependence ( $n = 3$ ; c28ds04, c28ds05, and c28ds17), social problems ( $n = 6$ ; c28ds08- c28ds13), medical problems ( $n = 2$ ; c28ds06 and c28ds18), polydrug use ( $n = 5$ ; c28ds01- c28ds03, c28ds14, and c28ds16), and previous treatment ( $n = 2$ ; c28ds19 and c28ds20). Items 7 (c28ds07) and 15 (c28ds15) showed poor loading. Items are scored as either 'Yes' (1) or 'No' (0) with the exception of items 4 (c28ds04) and 5 (c28ds05) which are reverse scored.

c28ds01	In the past 12 months, have you used drugs other than those required for medical reasons?
c28ds02	In the past 12 months, have you abused prescription drugs?
c28ds03	In the past 12 months, do you abuse more than one drug at a time?
c28ds04	In the past 12 months, can you get through the week without using drugs?
c28ds04r	Reversed: In the past 12 months, can you get through the week without using drugs?
c28ds05	In the past 12 months, are you always able to stop using drugs when you want to?
c28ds05r	Reversed: In the past 12 months, are you always able to stop using drugs when you want to?
c28ds06	In the past 12 months, have you had blackouts or flashbacks as a result of drug use?
c28ds07	In the past 12 months, do you ever feel bad or guilty about your drug use?
c28ds08	In the past 12 months, does your spouse (or parents) ever complain about your involvement with drugs?
c28ds09	In the past 12 months, has drug abuse created problems between you and your spouse or your parents?

c28ds10	In the past 12 months, have you lost friends because of your use of drugs?
c28ds11	In the past 12 months, have you neglected your family because of your use of drugs?
c28ds12	In the past 12 months, have you been in trouble at work (or school) because of drug abuse?
c28ds13	In the past 12 months, have you lost your job because of drug abuse?
c28ds14	In the past 12 months, have you gotten into fights when under the influence of drugs?
c28ds15	In the past 12 months, have you engaged in illegal activities in order to obtain drugs?
c28ds16	In the past 12 months, have you been arrested for possession of illegal drugs?
C28ds17	In the past 12 months, have you ever experienced withdrawal symptoms (felt sick) when you stopped taking drugs?
c28ds18	In the past 12 months, have you had medical problems as a result of your drug use (e.g., memory loss, hepatitis, convulsions, bleeding, etc.)?
c28ds19	In the past 12 months, have you gone to anyone for help for a drug problem?
c28ds20	In the past 12 months, have you been involved in a treatment program specifically related to drug use?

A total sum score was created by summing across items 1-3, 4r-5r, and 6-20 (das28tot). DAST-20 total scores have indicated adequate internal consistency ( $\alpha = .95$ ).

Five sub-scales were also created summing across the items within each of the five domains (das28dep, das28soc, das28med, das28pol, das28trt). One additional dichotomous scale was created from the total sum score. Any Illegal Drug Use or Prescription Drug Abuse (das28drg) is coded 1 if c28ds01 or c28ds02 are equal to 1 (0 otherwise).

Scales	Items	Description
das28drg	c28ds01-02	DAS28 Any Illegal Drug Use or Prescription Drug Abuse
das28dep	c28ds04r, 05r, 17	DAS28 Dependence Symptoms Sum Score
das28soc	c28ds08-13	DAS28 Social Problems Sum Score
das28med	c28ds06, 08	DAS28 Medical Problems Sum Score
das28pol	c28ds01-03, 14, 16	DAS28 Polydrug Use Sum Score
das28trt	c28ds19, 20	DAS28 Previous Treatment Sum Score
das28tot	c28ds01-03, 04r-05r, 06-20	DAS28 Total Sum Score
das28totr	c28ds01-03, 04r-05r, 06, 08-14, 16-20	DAS28 Total Sum Score with 7 and 15 removed

## Descriptive Statistics

### Full Normative Sample:

		Full Normative Sample					
		Cronbach's alpha	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
DAS28drg*	Any Illegal Drug Use or Prescription Drug Abuse		285	0.04		0	1
DAS28dep	Dependence Symptoms Sum Score	0.86	285	0.02	0.2	0	3
DAS28soc	Social Problems Sum Score	0.88	285	0.06	0.47	0	5
DAS28med	Medical Problems Sum Score	1	285	0.01	0.14	0	2
DAS28pol	Polydrug Use Sum Score	0.81	285	0.08	0.39	0	3
DAS28trt	Previous Treatment Sum Score	0.9	285	0.02	0.18	0	2
DAS28tot	Total Sum Score	0.95	285	0.21	1.41	0	16
DAS28totr	Total Sum Score with 7 and 15 removed	0.96	285	0.19	1.28	0	15

\*The standard deviation and Cronbach's alpha coefficient are not calculated for dichotomous scales.

**Comparison of Non-High Risk Normative and High Risk Control Samples**

		Non-High Risk Normative			High Risk Control			t-test*/Chi Sq Results**		
		N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	DF	t /chi sq	pval
DAS28drg*	Any Illegal Drug Use or Prescription Drug Abuse	232	0.04	0.19	103	0.05	0.22	1	0.17	0.68
DAS28dep	Dependence Symptoms Sum	232	0.02	0.22	103	0.02	0.14	292	0.11	0.91
DAS28soc	Social Problems Sum	232	0.05	0.48	103	0.09	0.58	167	-0.51	0.61
DAS28med	Medical Problems Sum	232	0.02	0.16	103	0.02	0.20	164	-0.10	0.92
DAS28pol	Polydrug Use Sum	232	0.07	0.39	103	0.09	0.42	333	-0.30	0.77
DAS28trt	Previous Treatment Sum	232	0.02	0.20	103	0.02	0.20	333	0.09	0.93
DAS28tot	Total Sum	232	0.21	1.50	103	0.26	1.63	333	-0.31	0.75
DAS28totr	Total Sum with 7 and 15 removed	232	0.19	1.35	103	0.23	1.42	333	-0.28	0.78

\*If the null hypothesis of equal variances is rejected, the t-test estimates shown in the table assume unequal variances, otherwise the t-test results shown assume equal variances.

\*\*Chi square tests are used to detect differences in dichotomous scales.