

Service Assessment for Children and Adolescents (SACA)

Study Year 28

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

Lu, A. and Godwin, J. (2022). Service Assessment for Children and Adolescents (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project website: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org/>

Measure Description

The original 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 modified version of the SACA administered in year 28 also collects information on general health services, informal help with emotional or behavioral problems, and children's use of prescriptions for behavioral and emotional problems.

Types of services included in year 28 fall into 5 broad categories: inpatient, outpatient, services provided by the government, informal help with emotional or behavioral problems, and children's use of prescriptions for behavioral and emotional problems.

Inpatient service providers include:

1. Psychiatric hospital
2. General hospital
3. Residential treatment center
4. Group home
5. Emergency shelter
6. Other overnight facility

Outpatient service providers include:

1. Mental health center
2. Day treatment or partial hospitalization
3. Drug or alcohol clinic
4. In-home therapist or family preservation worker
5. Respite care
6. Counselor, therapist, or social worker
7. School counselor, social worker, or psychologist
8. Emergency room
9. Pediatrician or family doctor

Government service providers include:

1. Special education

2. Criminal justice system
3. Foster care
4. Child welfare

Prescriptions include:

1. Behavioral
2. Emotional

Informal care providers include:

1. Religious counselor
2. Crisis hotline
3. Self-help group
4. Internet support group
5. Parent or relative
6. Non-related adult

For each type of provider or service, the participant is asked whether any of their children have received this type of service. If none of their children have used this type of provider or service, the remaining questions are skipped. If at least one of their children has used this type of provider or service, the respondent is prompted to select which of their children have used this type of provider or service. For each child who has received these services, the corresponding questions in the tables below are asked.

Unscored Dataset Name c28eb

Scored Dataset Name SAC28

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 SACA was completed only by participants who reported actively parenting at least one child under the age of 17. In year 28, 206 normative parents completed the SACA about their 489 offspring, by 73 high-risk control parents completed the SACA about their 183 offspring, and by 164 non-risk normative parents completed the SACA about their 374 offspring in year 28.

Scaling

The tables below describe the information collected about each of the 5 types of services.

General Questions:

c28eb001	Does your child have health insurance?
c28eb002	What is the name of his or her health insurance?

Inpatient Services:

	Psychiatric Hospital	General Hospital	Residential Treatment Center	Group Home	Emergency Shelter	Other Overnight Facility
Have any of your children ever stayed overnight at this facility?	c28eb003	c28eb010	c28eb020	c28eb027	c28eb041	c28eb049
In his or her lifetime, did he or she stay overnight there?	c28eb004	c283b011	c28eb021	c28eb028	c28eb042	c28eb050
In his or her lifetime, what is the number of stays he or she had?	c28eb005	c28eb12	c283b022	c28eb029	c28eb043	c28eb051
In the past 12 months, what is the number of stays he or she had?	c28eb006	c28eb014	c28eb023	c28eb030	c28eb045	c28eb053
In the past 12 months, how many total nights were spent in facility?	c28eb007	c28eb015	c28eb024	c28eb031	c28eb046	c283b056
In the past 12 months, how were the stays paid for?	c28eb008	c28eb018	c28eb025	c28eb032	c28eb047	c28eb059

Outpatient Services:

	Mental Health Center	Day Treatment	Drug or Alcohol Clinic	In-home Therapist	Respite Care	Counselor	School Counselor	Emergency Room	Pediatrician
Have any of your children ever received services from this facility/professional?	c28eb061	c28eb066	c28eb071	c28eb076	c28eb081	c28eb086	c28eb091	c28eb095	c28eb102
In his or her lifetime, did he or she ever receive services from this profession?	c28eb062	c28eb067	c28eb072	c28eb077	c28eb082	c28eb087	c28eb092	c28eb096	c28eb103
In the past 12 months, how many visits did he or she have?	c28eb063	c28eb068	c28eb073	c28eb078	c28eb083	c28eb088	c28eb093	c28eb097	c28eb104
In the past 12 months, did he or she have any visits with this profession for emotional, behavioral, or substance abuse problems?							c28eb094	c28eb098	c28eb105
In the past 12 months, how many visits did he or she have for emotional, behavioral, or substance abuse problems?								c28eb099	c28eb106
In the past 12 months, how were these services paid for?	c28eb064	c28eb069	c28eb074	c28eb079	c28eb084	c28eb089		c28eb100	c28eb107
In the past 12 months, how were these services paid for? Other	c28eb065	c28eb070	c28eb075	c28eb080	c28eb085	c28eb090		c28eb101	c28eb108

Government Services:

Special Education:

c28eb109	Have any of your children ever received special education services?
c28eb110	In his or her lifetime, did he or she ever receive special education services?
c28eb111	In his or her lifetime, has he or she ever been tested for special education services?
c28eb112	In the past school year, has he or she received any special education?
c28eb113	Does he or she have an individual education plan or IEP?
c28eb114	Is he or she classified as learning disabled?
c28eb115	Is he or she classified as severely behavior disordered (SBD) or severely emotionally disordered (SED) or behaviorally or emotionally handicapped (BEH)?
c28eb116	Is he or she classified as orthopedically impaired (OI)?
c28eb117	Is he or she classified as speech or language impaired (SLI)?
c28eb118	Is he or she classified as talented and gifted (TAG)?
c28eb119	Is he or she classified as mentally retarded (MR)?
c28eb120	Is he or she classified as other health impaired like ADHD, epilepsy, or brain impairment (OHI)?
c28eb121	Is he or she classified as other health impaired like ADHD, epilepsy, or brain impairment (OHI)? Please specify.
c28eb122	In the past school year, was he or she placed in special school?

Criminal Justice System:

c28eb123	Have any of your children ever had contact with police or criminal justice system?
c28eb124	In his or her lifetime, has your child ever had contact with police or criminal justice system?
c28eb125	What was his or her age at first contact with police or criminal justice system?
c28eb126	In his or her lifetime, how many arrests has your child had?
c28eb127	In his or her lifetime, how many times has your child been picked up, given a warning, put in a police car, or brought home by the police?
c28eb128	In his or her lifetime, how many times has your child appeared in court?
c28eb129	In his or her lifetime, how many times has your child been found guilty or convicted of a crime?
c28eb130	Description of convicted offense 1
c28eb131	Description of convicted offense 2
c28eb132	Description of convicted offense 3
c28eb133	Description of convicted offense 4
c28eb134	Description of convicted offense 5
c28eb135	Description of convicted offense 6
c28eb136	Description of convicted offense 7
c28eb137	Description of convicted offense 8
c28eb138	In his or her lifetime, has your child's punishment ever included spending time in a juvenile detention center, training school, prison, or jail?
c28eb139	In his or her lifetime, how many total days did your child spend in a juvenile detention center, training school, prison, or jail?

Foster Care:

c28eb034	Have any of your children ever spent time in foster care?
c28eb035	In his or her lifetime, has your child ever spent time in foster care?
c28eb036	In his or her lifetime, what is the number of foster home stays your child has had?
c283b037	In the past 12 months, what is the number of foster home stays your child has had?
c28eb038	In the past 12 months, how many total nights has your child stayed in a foster home?
c28eb039	In the past 12 months, were any of the foster care parents related to your child?
c28eb040	In the past 12 months, have any foster home parents have had special training for emotional, behavioral, or substance abuse problems?

Child Welfare:

c28eb144	Have any of your children ever had contact with child welfare services for possible neglect or abuse?
c28eb145	Has your child ever had contact with child welfare services for possible neglect or abuse?
c28eb146	In his or her lifetime, how many contacts with child welfare services has your child had for possible neglect?
c28eb147	In the past 12 months, how many contacts with child welfare services has your child had for possible neglect or abuse?

Prescriptions:

c28eb140	Have any of your children ever taken medication to control behavior or attention?
c28eb141	Has your child ever taken medication to control behavior or attention?
c28eb142	Have any of your children ever taken medication to control emotions or mood?
c28eb143	Has your child ever taken medication to control emotions or mood?

Informal Services:

	Religious Counselor	Crisis Hotline	Self-help Group	Internet Support Group	Parent or Relative	Non-related Adult
Have any of your children ever received help from type of person/group?	c28eb148	c28eb151	c28eb154	c28eb157	c28eb160	c28eb163
In his or her lifetime, has he or she received help from ***?	c28eb149	c28eb152	c28eb155	c28eb158	c28eb161	c28eb164
In the past 12 months, how many times has he or she received help?	c28eb150	c28eb153	c28eb156	c28eb159	c28eb162	c28eb165

Six sub-scales were created summing across the items within each of the domains (sac28imh, sac28inp, sac28med, sac28omh, sac28otp, sac28sch).

Scales	Items	Description
SAC28imh	c28eb4, c28eb13, c28eb21, c28eb44	Any Lifetime Inpatient Specialty Mental Health Services Yr28
SAC28inp	c28eb4, c28eb11, c28eb13, c28eb21, c28eb28, c28eb35, c28eb42, , c28eb44, c28eb50	Any Lifetime Inpatient Health Services Yr28
SAC28omh	c28eb62, c28eb67, c28eb72, c28eb77, c28eb87, c28eb98, c28eb105	Any Lifetime Outpatient Specialty Mental Health Services Yr28
SAC28otp	c28eb62, c28eb67, c28eb72, c28eb77, c28eb82, c28eb87, c28eb96, c28eb98, c28eb103, c28eb105, c28eb124, c28eb145, c28eb149, , c28eb152, , c28eb155, c28eb158	Any Lifetime Outpatient Health Services Yr28
SAC28sch	c28eb110, c28eb92	Any Lifetime School Services Yr28
SAC28med	28eb141, c28eb143	Any Lifetime Use Medication for Beh/Attn/Emot/Mood Yr28

Descriptive Statistics

Full Normative Sample:

		Full Normative Sample					
		Cronbach's alpha	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
SAC28imh*	Any Lifetime Inpatient Specialty Mental Health Services		450	0.03		0	1
SAC28inp*	Any Lifetime Inpatient Health Services		450	0.16		0	1
SAC28omh*	Any Lifetime Outpatient Specialty Mental Health Services		453	0.11		0	1
SAC28otp*	Any Lifetime Outpatient Health Services		453	0.58		0	1
SAC28sch*	Any Lifetime School Services		453	0.13		0	1
SAC28med*	Any Lifetime Use Medication for Beh/Attn/Emot/Mood		445	0.06		0	1

*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

There is no evidence of statistically significant differences between the high-risk control sample and the non-high-risk normative sample across the SACA scales.

		Non-High Risk Normative			High Risk Control			t-test*/Chi Sq Results**		
		N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	DF	t /chi sq	pval
SAC28imh*	Any Lifetime Inpatient Speciality Mental Health Services	345	0.03	0.17	166	0.01	0.11	1	1.40	0.24
SAC28inp*	Any Lifetime Inpatient Health Services	345	0.17	0.38	166	0.14	0.35	1	0.70	0.40
SAC28omh*	Any Lifetime Outpatient Speciality Mental Health Services	348	0.11	0.32	166	0.13	0.33	1	0.14	0.70
SAC28otp*	Any Lifetime Outpatient Health Services	348	0.56	0.50	166	0.58	0.50	1	0.15	0.70
SAC28sch*	Any Lifetime School Services	348	0.14	0.35	166	0.14	0.35	1	0.02	0.88
SAC28med*'	Any Lifetime Use Medication for Beh/Attn/Emot/Mood	343	0.06	0.23	163	0.08	0.27	1	0.83	0.36

*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.