Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument-2nd Version (MAYSI-2)

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Description: The MAYSI-2 is a standardized, reliable, 52-item, true-false, paper-and-pencil or computerized method for screening 12- to 17-year-olds entering the juvenile justice system, for identifying potential mental health problems in need of immediate attention. Requiring less than 10 minutes to administer and using the youth's self report, the MAYSI-2 is feasible for use by non-clinical staff at probation intake, pretrial detention admission, and reception into a state's youth authority facilities.

Age Range: 12-17

Administrator: Youth self report

Psychometric Properties

Sample Study: This MAYSI-2 project developed the scales and published initial data on their reliability, validity and norms. These researchers administered the MAYSI-2, the Millon Adolescent Clinical Inventory and the Youth Self Report to over 1,200 youths in three settings throughout Massachusetts: juvenile court probation intake departments, secure pretrial detention centers and assessment centers receiving youths committed to the Department of Youth Services. The sample included boys (68 percent) and girls (32 percent). Ages ranged from 12 to 17 (ages 12-14, 21 percent; ages 15-17, 79 percent). Ethnic composition was white non-Hispanic 44 percent, Hispanic 22 percent, African-American 23 percent, and Asian 4 percent. Suggested cutoff scores are a) caution scores on two or more scales, b) warning score on one or more scales, and c) suicide ideation caution score.

Reliability: Test/re-test reliability =. 74

Validity: Cautionary cut offs identify about 75 percent of youth who demonstrate clinical diagnoses compared to youths in the general population

Cost: A \$85 manual fee and registration agreement is required for the hand scored forms. MAYSI-Ware (computer version) is available for purchase for \$124.95. Order the MAYSI-2 at http://www.prpress.com/books/maysi2.html