Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The SASSI is a brief self-report, easily administered psychological screening measure that is available in separate versions for adults and adolescents. The Adult SASSI-3 helps identify individuals who have a high probability of having a substance dependence disorder with an overall empirically tested accuracy of 93 percent. The Adolescent SASSI-A2 is designed to identify individuals who have a high probability of having a substance use disorder, including both substance abuse and substance dependence, with its decision rules yielding an overall accuracy of 94 percent. The SASSI includes both face valid and subtle items that have no apparent relationship to substance use. The subtle items are included to identify some individuals with alcohol and other drug problems who are unwilling or unable to acknowledge substance misuse or symptoms associated with it. Support materials for the SASSI include User's Guides containing easy-to-understand instructions for administering, scoring, interpretation, and Manuals providing comprehensive information on development, reliability, and validity.

TARGET POPULATION

☒ Adults

☒ Adolescents (12 to 18 years)

Groups for which this instrument might be especially helpful?

Inpatient and outpatient settings, including criminal justice, employee assistance, educational, mental health, medical, and vocational

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Number of items: *Adult 93; Adolescent 100*

Number of subscales: *Adult 10; Adolescent 12*

Format(s): ☒ Pencil-and-paper self-administered

☐ Interview

☐ Observation

☒ Computer self-administered and optical scanning version

☒ Other (describe) Web-based administration

Time required for administration: *10 to 15 minutes*

Administered by: *Support staff*

Training required for administration? ☐ yes ☒ no

SCORING

Time required to score/interpret: *5 to 10 minutes*

Scored by: *Administrator*

Computerized scoring or interpretation available? ☒ yes ☐ no

PSYCHOMETRICS

Have reliability studies been done? ☒ yes ☐ no

What measure(s) of reliability was used?

☒ Test-retest

☐ Split half

☐ Internal consistency

Have validity studies been done? ☒ yes ☐ no

What measures of validity have been derived?

☐ Content

☒ Criterion (predictive, concurrent, "postdictive")

☐ Construct

CLINICAL UTILITY OF INSTRUMENT

Interpretations of the SASSI profiles suggest possibilities that the clinician may find useful in understanding clients and providing effective feedback. Examples of clinical inferences that may be drawn on the basis of certain scale scores include indication of defensive responding, clients' level of insight and awareness of the effects of their substance misuse, evidence of emotional pain, and relative risk of involvement with the legal/judicial system. In combination with other available assessment information, the clinical inferences suggested by examining SASSI profiles provide ideas for further evaluation and treatment considerations.

Free clinical consultation and technical support.

RESEARCH APPLICABILITY

The SASSI's brevity, ease of administration and scoring, and availability of computer format for data storage and analysis make the instrument highly useful for research applications.

SOURCE, COST AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES

Copyright: ☒ yes ☐ no

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Cost: *Call for product catalog or visit the SASSI Web site.*

Source: The SASSI Institute
         Phone: 800-726-0526
         Web site: www.sassi.com

SOURCE REFERENCE

Miller, G.A. (1985, 1999). *The Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI) Manual, Second Edition.* Springville, IN: The SASSI Institute.

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Piazza, N.J., Martin, N. & Dildine, R.J. (2000). Screening instruments for alcohol and other drug problems. *Journal of Mental Health Counseling, 22(3)*, 218-227.

Lazowski, L.E., Miller, F.G., Boye, M.W. & Miller, G.A. (1998). Efficacy of the Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory-3 (SASSI-3) in identifying substance dependence disorders in clinical settings. *Journal of Personality Assessment, 71(1)*, 114-128.

Horrigan, T.J., Piazza, N.J. & Weinstein, L. (1996). The Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI) is more cost effective and has better selectivity than urine toxicology for the detection of substance abuse in pregnancy. *Journal of Perinatology, 16(5)*, 326-330.

Piazza, N.J. (1996). Dual diagnosis and adolescent psychiatric inpatients. *Substance Use & Misuse, 31(2)*, 215-223.