

Table 1

PEI Psychosocial Scale Definitions Organized by Factor

Delinquency

Uncontrolled (12 items; alpha = .87). These items focus on the individual's tendencies to act out, display anger and aggressiveness, and to defy authority figures and rules.

Peer Chemical Environment (8 items; alpha = .83). The items comprising this scale indicate chemical involvement by one's peers, and indicate that the individual generally associates with chemical abusing peers.

Deviant Behavior (10 items; alpha = .81). This scale measures actual participation in unlawful, delinquent, or socially unsanctioned behavior (such as hitting a teacher or breaking into a home).

Sibling Chemical Use (4 items; alpha = .85). This scale surveys chemical use by the respondent's brothers and sisters. High scorers have siblings who are heavily involved with drugs.

Psychological Distress

Negative Self-Image (10 items; alpha = .84). This scale reflects lack of self-esteem and self-regard, personal dissatisfaction, and feelings of incompetence.

Psychological Disturbance (10 items; alpha = .81). Items from this scale are associated with psychological problems and distress, such as disturbances of mood and thinking, and physical complaints.

Social Isolation (8 items; alpha = .71). This scale measures perception of social discomfort, social isolation, and feelings of mistrust toward others.

Nonconventional Values

Rejecting Convention (11 items; alpha = .76). This scale taps the extent to which the individual fails to endorse traditional beliefs about right and wrong (e.g., attitudes towards lying, breaking rules, stealing, and oppositional behavior).

Absence of Goals (11 items; alpha = .81). Elevated scores on this scale represent failure to plan for or think about future aspirations, goals, and expectations, including completion of high school and career attitudes.

Spiritual Isolation (7 items; alpha = .85). This scale measures the role of spirituality, spiritual beliefs, and the use of prayer in the respondent's life.

Family Distress

Parent Chemical Use (5 items; alpha = .82). This scale measures problem chemical use by the respondent's mother and father.

Parent Dysfunction (8 items; alpha = .73). Items making up this scale are associated with severe parental dysfunction, including physical or sexual abuse.

Family Estrangement (9 items; alpha = .85). This scale reflects lack of family solidarity and closeness, and the presence of parent-child conflict. High scorers report chaotic, unsupportive, and conflicted family interactions.