

TCU A-RSKForm (Adult-Background Risk)

Item Scoring Guide

The A-RSKForm collects brief biographic and background information from adult admissions to treatment. It includes *socio-demographic* items (gender, age, race-ethnicity, education, and marital status) as well as *legal, medical, and health status* during the previous 6 months. In that respect, it serves as the first part of a typical “treatment intake” assessment (see Joe, Simpson, Greener, & Rowan-Szal, 2004) and provides key linkage indicators for other intake and during-treatment progress assessments using TCU Short Forms or similar instruments. Behavioral status questions based on the past 6 months (i.e., Q9-20) also provide the option of calculating a general Adult Background Risk Index for use in classifying new clients according to *problem severity and risk levels* (see Knight, Flynn, & Simpson, 2008).

Scoring Instructions for A-RSKForm (*range=10-50; higher scores more negative*)

1. Assign item response scores for Q9 and 12-20 as “0” or “1,” as follows.
 - a. If Q9 is answered *more than 1 month* (i.e., 1-3, 4-5, or All 6), assign a score of “1” (otherwise, “0”).
 - b. For Q12-20 with responses of “yes,” assign a score of “1” (otherwise, “0”).
2. Sum scores for Q9 and Q12-20, yielding a value of 0-10.
 - a. If “0” or “1,” however, change the score to “2,” yielding a revised value of 2-10.
3. Divide the sum score by 2 and then multiply by 10, yielding a ***Background Risk Index*** value of 10-50.

(**Note.** This score should not be calculated if half or more of the responses are missing)

Sources:

Joe, G. W., Simpson, D. D., Greener, J. M., & Rowan-Szal, G. A. (2004). Development and validation of a client problem profile and index for drug treatment. *Psychological Reports, 95*, 215-234.

Knight, K., Flynn, P. M., & Simpson, D. D. (2008). Drug court screening. In C. Hardin & J. N. Kushner, (Eds.), *Quality improvement for drug courts: Evidence-based practices* (Monograph Series 9, pp. 3-12). Washington, DC: National Drug Court Institute.

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