

General Health Questionnaire (GHQ)

Brief description

The **General Health Questionnaire** was developed in England as a screening instrument to identify psychological distress among adults in primary care settings. The GHQ manual notes that it is not appropriate for use with children but that it has been used with adolescents. The original version comprised 60 items and subsequently various versions of different length have been constructed and validated (30-item, 28-item, 20-item and 12-item versions). There is currently no version defined specifically for adolescents.

Appropriate target populations

Not specified.

Administration options

Formats available

- self-administered (paper-and-pencil)
- self-administered (computer)
- clinician-administered

Time required

Languages available

- English
- French
- Other (Contact tool developers for more information.)

Accessibility and cost

- no charge for use
- use requires permission of test developer
- use requires special training and/or professional or academic credentials
- fee for use

Where to access

http://www.glassessment.co.uk/health_and_psychology/resources/general_health_questionnaire/faqs.asp?css=1

Summary of test development data

Quality of reporting

Low, based on STARD rating (see Appendix, p. 76).

Summary of validity and Reliability Data

Moderate, based largely on the fact there is one somewhat dated criterion-related diagnostic-based validity study, but emerging literature on other types of validity for use in the general population.