

Problem Oriented Screening Instrument for Teenagers (POSIT)

Brief Description

The POSIT is a multidimensional tool intended to identify adolescents needing further assessment in problem substance use and nine other functional areas. The other nine areas are:

- physical health
- mental health
- family relations
- peer relations
- educational status
- vocational status
- social skills
- leisure and recreation
- aggressive/delinquent behaviour.

The POSIT is made up of 139 yes/no questions that explore current functioning. The substance use/abuse scale has been the subject of most of the attention for criterion-related validation and other psychometric testing. It is made up of 17 items. A briefer 11-item version has been developed.

A follow-up questionnaire is also available and can be used as a descriptive measure in program evaluation.

Appropriate target populations

The POSIT has been tested in substance use, mental health, corrections and medical settings. It is aimed at adolescents aged 12 to 19 and with at least a fifth grade reading level. The scale has been adapted for use with Latin American Spanish and Portuguese-speaking populations.

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Administration options

Formats available

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

Time required

Twenty to 30 minutes.

Languages available

- English
- French
- Other (Spanish, Portuguese)

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

National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information

P.O. Box 2345

Rockville, MD 20847-2345

1-900-729-6686

OR

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PDF available from: <http://eib.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index4439EN.html>.

Computerized version

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Summary of test development data

Quality of reporting

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

Summary of validity and Reliability Data

High