

Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)

Brief description

The **Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)** is used to identify behavioural and emotional problems in children and adolescents. It was developed in the U.K. and is used in many countries in clinical and epidemiological contexts.

The instrument produces scores for five subscales:

- conduct problems
- hyperactivity
- emotional problems
- peer problems
- prosocial behaviour.

Each subscale consists of five items.

Parent and teacher versions are available for those aged 3 to 16 and a youth self-report version is available for youth aged 11 to 16. Extended versions of the parent and teacher SDQ include an impact supplement that asks if the respondent thinks the child or adolescent has a problem with emotions, concentration behaviour or getting along with people. If the answer is yes, the parent/teacher is asked about chronicity, distress, social impairment and burden to others (Goodman, 1999).

Appropriate target populations

Parent and teacher versions are available for those aged 3 to 16 A youth self-report version is available for youth aged 11 to 16.

Administration options

Formats available

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

Designed for self-administration but they can be administered verbally if literacy is too low.

Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire

Time required

Administration time is approximately 10 minutes.

Languages available

English

French

Other (Dutch, German, Swedish, Arabic, Urdu, Finnish, Portuguese, Italian, Spanish and Croatian—see website for details.)

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

www.sdqinfo.com

Summary of test development data

Quality of reporting

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

Summary of validity and reliability data

High, based largely on the variety and strength of the reliability and validity data across so many languages and cultural contexts.