Making Decisions in Everyday Life

**Instrument:** Making Decisions in Everyday Life

**Scale/Subscale Name:** Making Decisions in Everyday Life

**Source:** Youth Life Skills Evaluation Project at Penn State. Instrument also cited by the CYFAR Life Skills Project at Texas A&M University.

**Developers:** C. C. Mincemoyer and D. F. Perkins

**Year:** 2001

**Target Audience(s):** Youth aged 12 to 18

**Language other than English available:** No

**Type:** Behavior

**Data collected:** Quantitative

**Data collection format:** Self report – Pre/post

**Reading Level:** Flesch-Kincaid Grade level: 6.5

**Existence of test/technical manuals, user guides, supplemental materials:** Instrument and tips on administration available online at: http://www.humanserviceresearch.com/youthlifeskillsevaluation/

**Level of training necessary for administration/scoring/interpretation:** None

**Widespread Use/Professional Endorsements:** Recommended by the CYFAR Life Skills Project, Youth Development Initiative, Texas A&M University.

**Cost of Use:** There are no costs associated with the use of this instrument. The authors request that you contact them, give full acknowledgement on the surveys and reports, provide an electronic copy of the data set when available, and send a copy of the report/article that is produced from the data.
Description:
Making decisions is the process of identifying and selecting a choice among possible alternatives and then evaluating the consequences of that choice. This survey assesses youth’s decision-making ability by examining the frequency of use of the following skills that are needed to engage in sound decision-making.
1. Define the Problem
2. Identify the Alternatives
3. Identify the Risk and Consequences
4. Select an Alternative
5. Evaluate

Psychometrics:
Information on reliability and validity are provided below. If information on a particular psychometric was not found, it is indicated as “no information provided.” It should be noted that this is not necessarily an indication of a lack of reliability or validity within a particular scale/instrument, but rather a lack of rigorous testing, for various reasons, by the developers or other researchers.

Reliability: A correlation of at least .80 is suggested for at least one type of reliability as evidence; however, standards range from .5 to .9 depending on the intended use and context for the instrument.

Internal Consistency: Alpha's for the five factors in the scale range from .63 to .89.

Inter-rater reliability: No information provided

Test-Retest: No information provided

Validity: The extent to which a measure captures what it is intended to measure.

Content/Face Validity: No information provided

Criterion Validity: No information provided

Construct Validity: No information provided

References:
CONSTRUCT: Problem Solving and Decision Making

Scale Name: Making Decisions in Everyday Life

Developers: C. C. Mincemoyer and D. F. Perkins

Section I.

Instructions: The following statements describe how you might make a decision in everyday life. Circle the number that best corresponds to how often you did what is described in the last 30 days. For example, if you circle 5 for a statement, it means you always do what is described in the statement.

1=Never, 2=Rarely, 3=Sometimes, 4=Often, 5=Always

WHEN I HAVE A DECISION TO MAKE . . .

1. I easily identify my problem.
2. I think about the problem before I take action.
3. I look for information to help me understand the problem.
4. I ask others to help me identify my problem.
5. I think about ways of dealing with my problem.
6. I think before making a choice.
7. I discuss choices with my friends before making a decision.
8. I discuss choices with my parents before making a decision.
9. I look for positive points of possible choices.
10. I look for negative points of possible choices.
11. I consider the risks of a choice before making a decision.
12. I consider the benefits of a choice before making a decision.
13. I make decisions based on what my parents tell me.
14. When faced with a decision, I realize that some choices are better than others.
15. I make a decision by thinking about all the information I have about the different choices.
16. I prioritize my choices before making a decision.
17. Before making another decision, I think about how the last one turned out.
18. I do think of past choices when making new decisions.
19. If I experience negative consequences, I change my decision the next time.
20. Decision-making is easy for me.
Section II.

Instructions: Rate how often the following factors influence your decisions.

1=Never, 2=Rarely, 3=Sometimes, 4=Often, 5=Always

WHAT FACTORS INFLUENCE YOUR DECISIONS?
1. Personal experience
2. Close friends
3. Feelings or emotions
4. Parents
5. Brothers and sisters
6. Personal values
7. Advertising
8 Television or movies
9. Peer pressure
10. Other adults

Scoring for Section I:
- Sum all item ratings together.
- Higher scores indicate greater decision making ability.

Scoring for Section II:
- This section generates descriptive data.
- Results should be reported as response frequencies for individual items.