



Research Week 2020

Factor Structure of Short Forms of the Barratt Impulsiveness Scale (BIS-15 and BIS-Brief) in an Adolescent, Non-clinical Population

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Keywords

Impulsivity, factor analysis

Abstract

The Barratt Impulsiveness Scale (BIS) is a widely used tool for measuring impulsivity and has been influential in shaping current theories of impulse control. Studies have found that BIS factor structures can vary between youth and adults. The present study examines the factor structure of two widely used short versions of the BIS (BIS-15 and BIS-Brief) within an adolescent population. The BIS-15 has fifteen questions thought to assess three factors of impulsivity: non-planning, motor, and attentional impulsivity. The BIS-Brief has eight questions thought to assess impulsivity as a unidimensional factor. This study applied exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis to a cross-sectional sample of 612 middle school students in grades six through eight. The factor structures for both BIS-15 and BIS-Brief will be reported as will model fit and internal reliabilities of total scores and subscales for these instruments. This work provides evidence for how these scales can be used with non-clinical adolescents to understand the impact of impulse control on health and educational outcomes.