

Information on the Childhood History Questionnaire (CHQ) 4/2012

Beginning on the middle of this page is a list of articles that have used the CHQ (or a modified version of the CHQ) in a research study. In varying degrees, these reports provide data on the reliability and construct validity of the CHQ.

Please note that the CHQ initially was developed for one time use in a research project (Milner, Robertson, & Rogers, 1990) and was designed to screen large groups of individuals for self-reported childhood abuse history. Although the CHQ items describe specific physically abusive behaviors, physically abusive sequelae, and sexual abuse, individual interview procedures (e.g., see Finkelhor or Wyatt), compared to self-report screening measures, typically yield higher childhood abuse rates. So the relatively quick childhood history of abuse screen provided by the CHQ may or may not meet your research needs. Although the CHQ rates of child abuse are probably not as accurate (in terms of false negative classifications) as the rates based on individual participant interviews, the results in studies where the CHQ has been used are generally as expected. The advantage of the CHQ is that a large number of individuals can be screened in a group setting in very little time.

Since the CHQ is a self-report survey questionnaire, there is no single scoring procedure. The operational definition of what types of childhood abuse events are sufficient to meet the research criterion for childhood abuse in any particular study is determined by the individual investigator.

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