

CENTER FOR EPIDEMIOLOGIC STUDIES DEPRESSION (CES-D) SCALE (modified)

Reference

Radloff, L. S. (1977). The CES-D Scale: A self-report depression scale for research in the general population. *Applied Psychological Measurement*, 1(3), 385-401.

Description

The 20-item *CES-D Scale* measures the experience of depressive symptomatology during the past week. The measure was developed from items appearing on longer, well-validated depression scales. The items assess cognitive, affective, behavioral, and somatic symptoms of depression, and positive affect. Each item is rated on a 4-point scale ranging from 0 = *rarely or none of the time (less than 1 day)* to 3 = *most or all of the time (5-7 days)*. A total score is calculated by summing the responses after reversing the positive affect items. Higher scores reflect greater levels of depressive symptomatology.

Radloff (1977) reported good internal consistency for the measure, with Cronbach's alpha coefficients of .84-.85 in White community samples and .90 in clinical samples. There also was strong evidence for validity. The CES-D discriminates between psychiatric inpatient and general population samples, and among levels of severity within patient groups; and is associated with other measures of depressive symptomatology. The Phase I common protocol instrument documentation provides additional information about the reliability and validity of the CES-D.

Modifications: The *CES-D*, identified as *My Feelings* in the site-specific questionnaire battery, was modified for administration to study participants, as follows.

- Item order was changed
- Response scale was modified to 1-4
- One item was reworded slightly: Original = *People were unfriendly*, modification = *People were unfriendly to me*.

Administration: 24 months, 36 months

This measure was administered to fathers/partners at 24 months ($n = 65$) during the HHS father visit, and at 36 months ($n = 89$) during a site-specific family lab. It also was administered as part of the common protocol (identified as *My Feelings*), with the modifications outlined above, to mothers at 1, 6, 15, 24, & 36 months; to both mothers and fathers/partners at 54 months, Grade 1, Grade 3, Grade 5, Grade 6, & 15 years; and to child care providers at 15, 24, & 36 months.

Scoring: Radloff (1977)

Response values were rescored to match the standard scoring for the CES-D, which ranged from 0 to 3 (e.g., 1 recoded to 0, 4 recoded to 3). An overall depression score is computed as the sum of the 20 items, with Items 3, 11, 14, and 16 reversed. In cases with internally missing data (items not answered), the sums were computed after imputation of the missing values: # items on scale / # actually answered, multiplied by the sum obtained from the answered items. A higher score indicates more depressive symptomatology during the past week.

24 months = **F24DEP**

$N = 65$, $M = 8.38$, $SD = 6.32$, range = 0-26, $\alpha = .82$

36 months = **F36DEP**

$N = 89$, $M = 8.66$, $SD = 7.27$, range = 0-36, $\alpha = .87$

Analysis Data Sets

24 months: SS24MO

36 months: SS36MO

Raw Data Sets

24 months: F24MF

36 months: F36MF