

Measures Compilations and Reviews

The Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR) Measurement and Methods Cores

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The list of “measures compilations” was compiled by members of the RCMAR Measurement and Methods Core. It is a list of basic books in which specific measures are reviewed or provided. Many of these measures are appropriate for general or patient populations; some focus specifically on measures for older adults, ethnically diverse population groups, and measures tested in Spanish.

American Psychiatric Association, Handbook of Psychiatric Measures, American Psychiatric Association, 2000.

Includes chapters on diagnostic interviews, psychiatric symptoms, mental health, general health, quality of life, adverse effects, stress and life events, family functioning, as well as DSM-IV diagnostic categories.

Andreson E, Rothenberg B, and Zimmer JG (eds). Assessing the health status of older adults. New York: Springer Publishing Company, 1997

This edited book includes chapters on measures of functional assessment, general health status, severity of illness and comorbidity, cognitive screening, and screening for depression. Each chapter includes a review of numerous measures appropriate for older adults, including self-report and performance-based measures.

Frank-Stomborg M and Olsen SJ (eds). Instruments for Clinical Health –Care Research. Third Edition. Boston: Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 2004.

The book reviews measurement issues in several contexts, and in several chapters, reviews instruments for assessing health and function (e.g., cognitive status, quality of life, social support, coping, hope, spirituality, sleep) and clinical problems (e.g., dyspnea, fatigue, pain). Very brief critiques of measures are provided.

Lawton, MP, Teresi, JA. Annual Review of Gerontology and Geriatrics: Focus on assessment techniques. New York: Springer Publishing Company, 1994.

This volume evaluates a range of assessment measures with regard to older adults. It addresses topics such as assessment of health, functional disability (ADLs), mental ability, aging and personality, depression, and pain. This book discusses the suitability, strengths, and weakness of various measures and offers current information on the state-of-the-art assessment technology.

Lorig K, Stewart A, Ritter P, Gonzalez V, Laurent D, Lynch J. Outcome Measures for Health Education and Other Health Care Interventions. Thousand Oaks CA: Sage Publications, Inc., 1996.

Appendices in this book present selected measures of health, patient satisfaction, health profiles, and all measures used in the Chronic Disease Self-Management Study. Spanish versions of self-rated health, pain, the CES-D, arthritis self-efficacy, and the Health Assessment Questionnaire are included. For updates on these measures, see: <http://patienteducation.stanford.edu/research/>

McDowell I, Newell C. Measuring Health: A Guide to Rating Scales and Questionnaires, Second edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Reviews thoroughly measures of physical disability, social health, psychological well-being, depression, mental status, pain, and general health and quality of life. Includes actual instruments where possible and selected items in some cases.

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Robinson JP, Shaver PR, Wrightsman LS. Measures of Personality and Social Psychological Attitudes. San Diego: Academic Press, Inc., 1991.

Includes reviews of measures of response bias, subjective well-being, self-esteem, social anxiety, depression and loneliness, alienation, interpersonal trust, locus of control, authoritarianism, sex roles, and values. Not focused on aging, but attempt to interpret adequacy of measures. No mention of cross-cultural issues. Includes actual instruments where possible and selected items in some cases.

Skinner JH, Teresi JA, Holmes D, Stahl SM, Stewart AL (Eds.) Multicultural Measurement in Older Populations. Journal of Mental Health and Aging, 1001, volume 7.

Later published as a book: Multicultural Measurement in Older Populations. New York: Springer Publishing Company, 2002.

This volume (later book) is a compilation of articles addressing the state-of-the-art in multicultural measurement. The authors (and the associate editors) are well-established researchers who collectively represent the best thinking in this field. The volume contains reviews of measures that have been used cross-culturally in the areas of: acculturation, socio-economic status, social supports, cognition, health and functional capacity, depression, health locus of control, health-related quality of life, and religiosity. Also included are three articles on methodologies for studying cross-cultural equivalence of measures.

Spilker B. Quality of Life and Pharmacoeconomics in Clinical Trials, Second Edition. Philadelphia: Lippincott-Raven, 1996.

This edited book contains chapters addressing the following: measures of quality of life, methods of validation of measures, how to choose specific measures in specific situations for specific purposes, and quality of life measures for specific conditions. Includes cross-cultural issues and issues of assessment in disadvantaged groups.

Stewart AL, Ware JE, Jr. (Eds.) Measuring Functioning and Well-being: The Medical Outcomes Study Approach. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1992.

Describes all steps involved in developing and testing the reliability and validity of the Medical Outcomes Study long-form measures (from which the SF-36 and SF-12 short form measures were derived). Includes chapters on measures of physical functioning, psychological distress/well-being, cognitive functioning, health perceptions, energy/fatigue, health distress, social functioning, sexual functioning, role functioning, pain, sleep, and physical/psychophysiologic symptoms.

Streiner D, Norman G. Health Measurement Scales: A Practical Guide to Their Development and Use. Second ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.

Briefly describes the process of conceptualizing and developing measures, including issues of reliability, validity, and ethics. Includes brief but useful descriptions of generalizability theory and item response theory. Presentation is generally user-friendly.

Teresi, JA, Lawton, MP, Holmes, DH, Ory, M. Measurement in Elderly Chronic Care Populations. New York: Springer Publishing Company, 1997.

Provides a review of measures used in chronic care settings to assess individuals whose assessment is complicated by factors such as frailty, perception and communication problems, and advanced cognitive impairment. The book is a resource to researchers and clinicians in the selection of measures that will more accurately describe and predict the status of individuals from chronic care populations.

Vingerhoets, A (Ed). Assessment in Behavioral Medicine, Brunner-Routledge, 2001

Collection of chapters on measurement including social support, coping, patient compliance, pain, fatigue, health, and quality of life.

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Wilkin D, Hallam L, Doggett MA. Measures of Need and Outcome for Primary Health Care. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992.

Summarizes measures appropriate for use in primary care, including review of concepts and methods of measurement. Chapters include measures of functioning, mental illness and mental health, social support, multidimensional measures, disease-specific measures, and measures of patient satisfaction.