MISCONDUCT SCALE
Elementary & Middle Student Report

The Misconduct Scale is an adaptation of the Self-Reported Behavior Index (Brown, Clasen, & Eicher, 1986) created by Posner & Vandell for the Ecological Study of After-School Care, a 3-year study of low-income urban children. The scale includes seven items from the Self-Reported Behavior Index. Four of these items are identical to Brown et al., and three are reworded. The remaining four items on the Misconduct Scale were created by Posner & Vandell. The response scale (original: 1 = never, 5 = almost every day) and the reference period (original: past month) were modified for the Study of Promising After-School Programs. Additionally, four positively worded filler items were added to avoid asking about negative behaviors only.

Citation

Administration
Fall 2003
Spring 2004
Spring 2005

Items
Fall 2003 administration: How many times since school started this year have you…
Spring 2004 & Spring 2005 administrations: How many times since January have you…
1. Broken something on purpose
2. Gotten into a fight at school
3. Had a fight or argument with your parents
4. Lied to your parents about something important
5. Taken something on purpose that didn’t belong to you
6. Missed school without permission (elementary) / Skipped school without permission (middle)
7. Gotten into a fight in your neighborhood
8. Taken something from a store without paying for it
9. Given a teacher a hard time
10. Had to have your parents come to school about a problem
11. Done something your parents told you not to do

Response scale
0 = never
1 = once or twice
2 = about once a week
3 = 2-3 times a week
4 = 4 or more times a week

Scoring
Mean item score
Psychometrics

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<th></th>
<th>N</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Range</th>
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Validity

Brown et al. (1986) reported close correspondence between scores on the *Self-Reported Behavior Index* and reports of misconduct obtained in national surveys.