

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

Brown, B. B., Clasen, D. R., & Eicher, S. A. (1986). Perceptions of peer pressure, peer conformity, dispositions, and self-reported behavior among adolescents. *Developmental Psychology*, 22, 521-530.

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

	<i>N</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	Range	Alpha
Elementary					
Fall 2003	1705	0.47	0.60	0-4	.81
Spring 2004	1600	0.52	0.62	0-4	.84
Spring 2005	1260	0.53	0.58	0-3.70	.82
Middle					
Fall 2003	1019	0.53	0.56	0-4	.82
Spring 2004	971	0.62	0.59	0-3.73	.84
Spring 2005	753	0.63	0.56	0-4	.83

Validity

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