MSc Applied Social and Health Psychology

M7X01449 - Applied Research, Ethics, and Analysis

In-Class Assessment 1: Protocol for recoding and reverse scoring scales.

Measures at Time 1

Demographics (Time 1 only): age, marital status, education, children, gender.

The Impact of Events Scale (IES)*:*

The Impact of Event Scale (IES; Horowitz et al., 1979) adapted for familial cancer consists of 15 items capturing the frequency of participants' intrusive thoughts about their risk of developing cancer, and attempts to avoid these thoughts. The IES allows the calculation of a total score and separate intrusion and avoidance subscales scores. Horowitz identified thresholds for low, medium, and high symptom levels corresponding to levels of clinical concern using the IES total score: low < 8.5; medium = 8.6 to 19.0; and high > 19. The IES has been used as a measure of cancer-specific distress in a number of studies and has demonstrated good internal consistency and test re-test reliability amongst women at increased risk of breast cancer.

The scale consists of 15 items (seven intrusion items and eight avoidance items). Participants rate the frequency of intrusive and avoidant cognitions and behaviours using a four-point frequency scale.

The IES allows the calculation of a total score (with a possible range of 0 – 75) and separate intrusion and avoidance subscales scores (with a possible range of 0 –35 and 0 –40, respectively).

In order to analyse the data from the IES, the raw scores are recoded as follows: 1=0; 2=1; 3=3; 4=5.

The Life Orientation Test - Revised (LOT-R)

The Life Orientation Test - revised (LOT-R; Scheier & Carver, 1984) is a 10-item measure of dispositional or trait optimism. There are no "cut-offs" for optimism or pessimism; it is used as a continuous dimension of variability. Of the 10 items, 3 items measure optimism, 3 items measure pessimism, and 4 items serve as fillers. Respondents rate each item on a 5-point scale.

Note: Items 2, 5, 6, and 8 are fillers. Therefore, they should not be included when calculating the total scale score.

If calculating a total LOT score (not split by optimism/pessimism):-

- Need to reverse score the three items measuring pessimism i.e. lot3, lot7 & lot9
- Reverse score: (1=5) (2=4) (3=3) (4=2) (5=1)
- For remaining items no recoding of variables necessary BUT remember that items 2, 5, 6 and 8 are fillers so do not enter these variables when calculating the total or into any syntax for the LOT Scale(s).
- High scores indicate high optimism. Possible scale range of 10 -50.