

Revision of the Restrictiveness of Living Environment Scale (ROLES)

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~ Abstract ~

This poster presents the background, methodology, and results for the revision of the ROLES. Restrictiveness of the setting was measured using the REM-Y which was found to be a reliable and valid measure of restrictiveness. Analysis of the REM-Y data using a Rasch measurement model found that the scale segmented into three statistically significant restrictiveness subgroups.

~ Purpose ~

- The current ROLES is limited in that the list of placements is neither exhaustive nor mutually exclusive
 - Many placement settings are not included (e.g., therapeutic foster care, community based detention, juvenile detention, etc.)
 - There is a tremendous amount of variation in restrictiveness for individual programs within each treatment settings, resulting in overlapping distributions of restrictiveness



- Disregard for individual variation within the various treatment settings can obscure outcomes in practice and restrictiveness research

~ Research Goals ~

- To test and refine the REM-Y thus providing a flexible, psychometrically sound approach for measuring restrictiveness
- To lay the groundwork for developing a robust set of General Environment Types that will ultimately simplify how restrictiveness is typically measured and replace the current ROLES

~ Conceptual Definition ~

Restrictiveness is the ways in which adults in a child's life have anticipated that limits need to be made for the child's safety, developmental and therapeutic needs.

~ The Restrictiveness Evaluation Measure (REM-Y) ~

- The revision of the ROLES changes the way we look at restrictiveness. Rather than focus on rankings of program types this work is based on actual practice
- The REM-Y was created based the restrictiveness dimensions in published research, and refined through systematic reviews by content experts and cognitive interviewing with stake-holder groups
- A pilot study was conducted that allowed further refinement of the REM-Y
- Ultimately, the REM-Y was programmed into an online survey program.

~ Participants ~

- E-mail invitations were sent to 974 service providers around the country inviting them to complete the REM-Y as it applied to a specific youth currently in their program
- Forms were completed on 394 youth
- Mean age was 16.6 years old
- 61% of responses came from Residential Job Corps, Residential Treatment, or Group Home settings
- 41% of evaluations were for African American youth, and 39% for Caucasian youth
- 58% were receiving psychological, educational, substance abuse, welfare related, or court ordered services

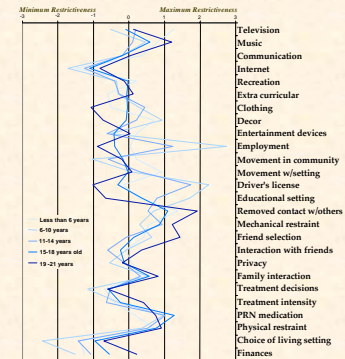
~ Analysis ~

- Psychometric analyses were conducted using the Rasch measurement model (WINSTEPS[®] software)
 - The Rasch model tests how well empirical data fit in terms of the measurement model constraints
 - Items were calibrated in terms of difficulty, and how they contribute differentially to the measured construct

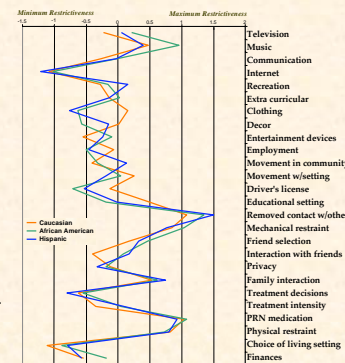
~ Results ~

- Results are preliminary, data is still being collected.
 - Some placement types are underrepresented (e.g., jail, substance abuse treatment, inpatient psychiatric, independent living)
- Rasch separation index = 2.87, reliability = .87
- The separation index indicates that the REM-Y can reliably differentiate approximately three groups from minimal to substantial restrictiveness
- Differential Item Function
 - There were, as expected, significant differences for age
 - No significant difference were noted for gender

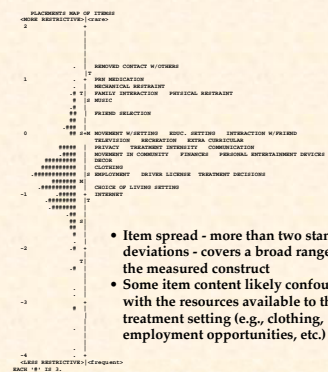
Differential Item Function - Age



Differential Item Function - Race



Person-Item Map: REM-Y



- Item spread - more than two standard deviations - covers a broad range on the measured construct
- Some item content likely confounded with the resources available to the treatment setting (e.g., clothing, employment opportunities, etc.)

~ Conclusions ~

- All but three of the REM-Y items show good fit to the Rasch model
- The Rasch separation index supports the use of the REM-Y in differentiating between groups of youth restrictiveness of the living environment
- There are contextual factors, such as age (i.e., developmental stage) that have been taken into account.

~ Future Research ~

- Future analyses needs to examine the impact of the interaction between age, race, and placement setting on restrictiveness
- Are the differences seen for race reflective of over- or under-representation in certain residential settings, or are they reflective of practice?
- Analysis and development of the General Environment Types (GETs)
- Analyze how the acceptability, availability, and appropriateness of the placement setting interact with restrictiveness to impact outcome