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. Only placement settings are not included (e.g., therapeutic foster care, community-based detention, juvenile detention, etc.).

~ Research Goals ~
To test and refine the REM-Y thus providing a flexible, psychometrically sound approach for measuring restrictiveness.

~ 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.

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~ 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 on restrictiveness dimensions in published research, and refined through systematic reviews by content experts and cognitive interviewing with stakeholder 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 16.9 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 32% 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 = 2.27, reliability = .85.

~ Conclusions ~
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.).

~ Future Research ~
Future analyses need to examine the impact of the interaction between age, race, and placement setting on restrictiveness.

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~ Differential Item Function - Age ~

~ Differential Item Function - Race ~

~ Person-Item Map: REM-Y ~