



LIFE SATISFACTION MEASURE DIFFERENCES

A brief guide to differences between the PROMIS[®] Life Satisfaction instruments:

ADULT	PEDIATRIC	PARENT PROXY
PROMIS Item Bank v1.0 General Life Satisfaction PROMIS Short Form v1.0 General Life Satisfaction 5a	PROMIS Pediatric Item Bank v1.0 Life Satisfaction PROMIS Pediatric Short Form v1.0 Life Satisfaction 4a PROMIS Pediatric Short Form v1.0 Life Satisfaction 8a PROMIS Pediatric Short Form v1.0 Life Satisfaction 8b	PROMIS Proxy Item Bank v1.0 Life Satisfaction PROMIS Proxy Short Form v1.0 Life Satisfaction 4a PROMIS Proxy Short Form v1.0 Life Satisfaction 8a PROMIS Proxy Short Form v1.0 Life Satisfaction 8b

ABOUT LIFE SATISFACTION

The Adult General Life Satisfaction item bank assesses one’s cognitive evaluation of life experiences and whether one likes his/her life or not. The PROMIS Pediatric and Parent Proxy Life Satisfaction item banks assess global and context-specific evaluations of a child’s life. High levels result from favorable evaluations and an acceptance of how a child’s life is being led. Conceptual facets include global evaluations of life, context-specific evaluations of life, assessments of life conditions, and comparisons of one’s life with others’ lives. The Pediatric and Parent Proxy Life Satisfaction item banks both have 42 items. The measures are universal rather than disease-specific. The Adult General Life Satisfaction measures assess how much one agrees with each item in general rather than over a specified time period. The Pediatric and Parent Proxy Life Satisfaction measures use a 4-week reporting period.

Life Satisfaction instruments are available for adults (ages 18+), pediatric self-report (ages 8-17) and for parents serving as proxy reporters for their child (youth ages 5-17).

INTRODUCTION TO ASSESSMENT OPTIONS

There are two administration options for assessing Life Satisfaction: short forms and a computer adaptive test (CAT). When administering a short form, instruct participants to answer all of the items (i.e., questions or statements) presented. With a CAT, participant responses guide the system’s choice of subsequent items from the full item bank (10 items in total for adults). Although items differ across respondents taking a CAT, scores are comparable across participants.

Some administrators may prefer to ask the same question of all respondents or of the same respondent over time, to enable a more direct comparability across people or time. In these cases, or when paper administration is preferred, a short form would be more desirable than a CAT. This guide provides information on all Life Satisfaction short form and CAT instruments.

CAT: A minimum number of items (4 for adult and adult cancer CATs and 5 for peds and parent proxy CATs) must be answered in order to receive a score for the Life Satisfaction CAT. The response to the first item will

guide the system’s choice of the next item for the participant. The participant’s response to the second item will dictate the selection of the following question, and so on. As additional items are administered, the potential for error is reduced and confidence in the respondent’s score increases. A CAT will continue until either the standard error drops below a specified level (on the T-score metric 3.0 for adult and 4.0 for peds and parent proxy CATs), or the participant has answered the maximum number of questions (12), whichever occurs first.

CAT versus Short Form: Whether one uses a short form or a CAT, the score metric is Item Response Theory (IRT), a family of statistical models that link individual questions to a presumed underlying trait or concept of Life Satisfaction represented by all items in the item bank. When choosing between a CAT and a short form, it is useful to consider the demands of computer-based assessment, and the psychological, physical, and cognitive burden placed on respondents as a result of the number of questions asked.

Figure 1 (pediatric) and Figure 2 (parent proxy) illustrate the correlations (strength of relationships) of the full banks with CATs and with short forms of varying length. A longer CAT or longer short form offers greater correlation, as well as greater precision. When evaluating precision, not all questions are equally informative. The flexibility of a CAT to choose more informative questions offers more precision.

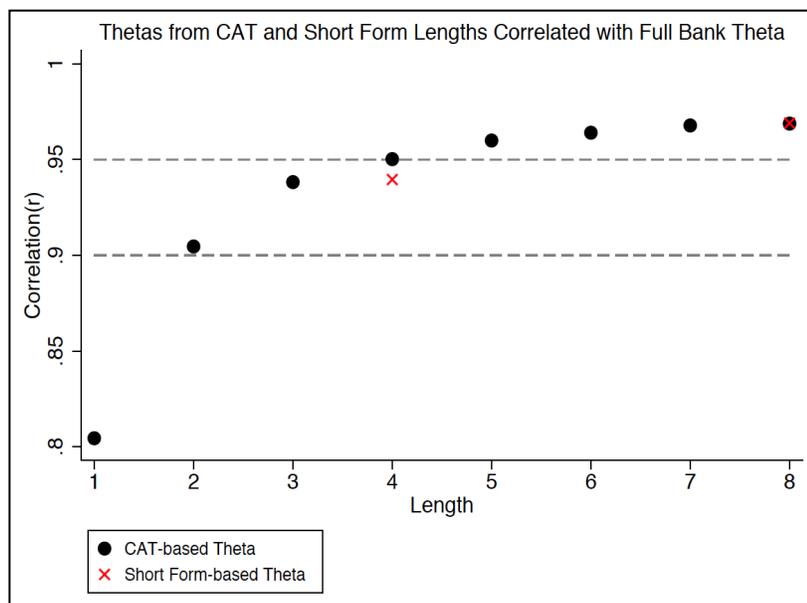


Figure 1

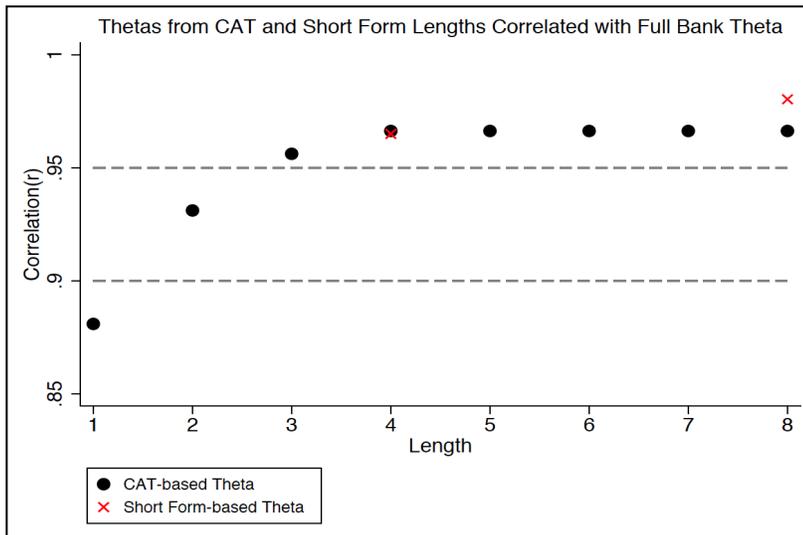


Figure 2

SHORT FORM DIFFERENCES

Pediatric and Parent Proxy Short Forms

There are 3 Pediatric and 3 Parent Proxy short forms. Items were selected based on content and psychometric characteristics.

The items selected for the 4-item short form are each a measure of global (context-free) life satisfaction. Both 8-item short forms embedded the 4-item form. Short form 8a includes four additional items that assess global life satisfaction. Short form 8b includes four additional items for specific life domains, namely family, friends, self, and neighborhood.

Selecting a Short Form

In selecting between short forms, the difference is instrument length. The reliability and precision of the short forms within a domain is highly similar. If you are working with a sample in which you want the most precise measure, select the longest short form. If you have little room for additional measures but really wanted to capture something as a secondary outcome, select one of the shorter instruments (e.g., 4-item short form).

SELECTING A PEDIATRIC OR PARENT PROXY INSTRUMENT

In selecting whether to use the pediatric or parent proxy instrument for this domain, it is important to consider both the population and the domain that you are studying. Pediatric self-report should be considered the standard for measuring patient-reported outcomes among children. However, circumstances exist when the child is too young, cognitively impaired, or too ill to complete a patient-reported outcome instrument. Since information derived from self-report and proxy-report is not equivalent, it is optimal to assess both the child and the parent since their perspectives may be independently related to healthcare utilization, risk factors, and quality of care.

SCORES

For most PROMIS instruments, a score of 50 is the average for the United States general population with a standard deviation of 10 because calibration testing was performed on a large sample of the general population. You can read more about the calibration and centering samples on HealthMeasures.net (<http://www.healthmeasures.net/score-and-interpret/interpret-scores/promis>). The T-score is provided with an error term (Standard Error or SE). The Standard Error is a statistical measure of variance and represents the “margin of error” for the T-score.

Important: *A higher PROMIS T-score represents more of the concept being measured.* For positively-worded concepts like Life Satisfaction, a T-score of 60 is one SD better than average. By comparison, a Life Satisfaction T-score of 40 is one SD worse than average.

STATISTICAL CHARACTERISTICS

There are four key features of the score for Life Satisfaction:

- **Reliability:** The degree to which a measure is free of error. It can be estimated by the internal consistency of the responses to the measure, or by correlating total scores on the measure from two time points when there has been no true change in what is being measured (for z-scores, reliability = $1 - SE^2$).
- **Precision:** The consistency of the estimated score (reciprocal of error variance).
- **Information:** The precision of an item or multiple items at different levels of the underlying continuum (for z-scores, information = $1/SE^2$).
- **Standard Error (SE):** The possible range of the actual final score based upon the scaled T-score. For example, with a T-score of 52 and a SE of 2, the 95% confidence interval around the actual final score ranges from 48.1 to 55.9 (T-score $\pm (1.96*SE) = 52 \pm 3.9 = 48.1$ to 55.9).

The final score is represented by the T-score, a standardized score with a mean of 50 and a standard deviation (SD) of 10.

In Figure 3 (Pediatric 8-item short form) and Figure 4 (Parent Proxy 8-item short form), the two dotted horizontal lines in each figure represent a degree of internal consistency reliability (i.e., .90 or .95) typically regarded as sufficient for an accurate individual score. The shaded blue regions mark the ranges of the scales where measurement precision is comparable to the reliability of .90 for the eight-item form. Both figures also tell us where on the scales the forms are most informative based upon the T-scores. These forms would typically be more informative than the 4-item Life Satisfaction short forms.

Figure 5 (Pediatric 4- and 8-item short forms) and Figure 6 (Parent Proxy 4- and 8-item short forms) also tell us where on the scales the forms are most informative based upon the T-scores: the 8-item forms are more informative than the 4-item forms.

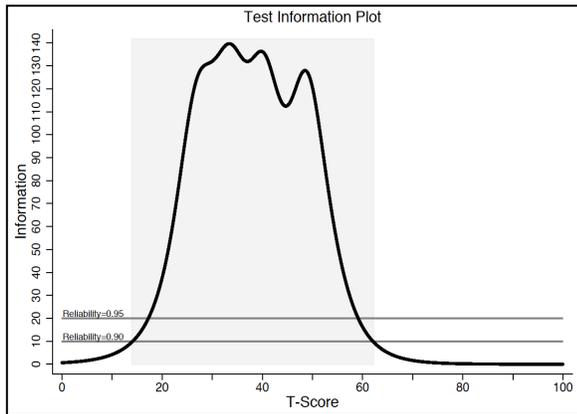


Figure 3

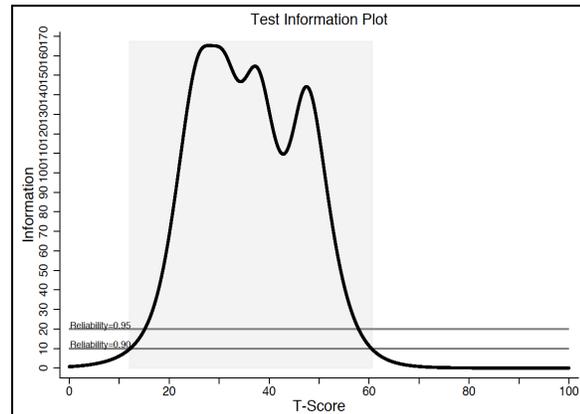


Figure 4

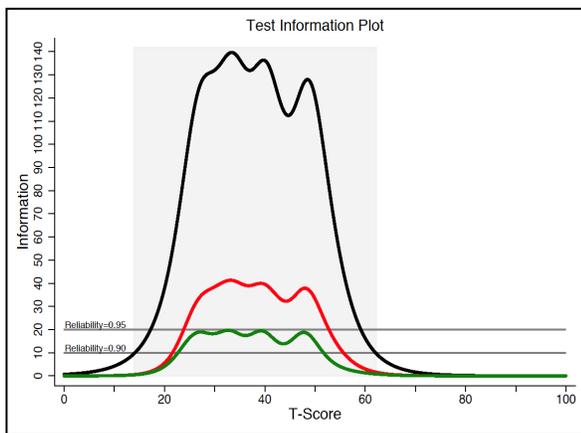


Figure 5

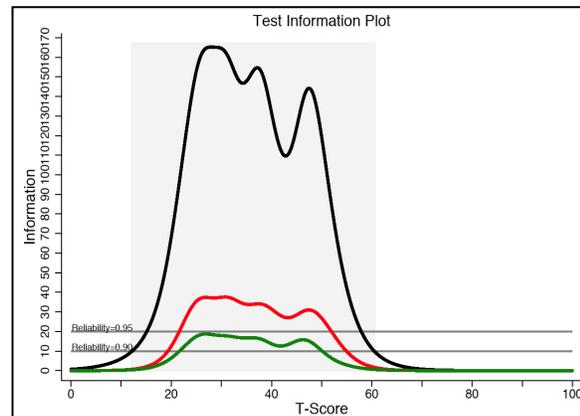


Figure 6

Figure 7 and Figure 8 are samples of the statistical information available for the Pediatric and Parent Proxy Life Satisfaction CATs.

More information is available online at HealthMeasures.net.

Scaling Model Used For Calibration	Graded Response Model (GRM)										
Total Number of Items	28										
Sample	N	Alpha Reliability									
PROMIS Wave 1 Full Bank	782	0.98									
Score Distributions											
	Mean	SD	P5	P10	P25	P50	P75	P90	P95		
Raw	49.16	22.58	28.00	29.00	31.00	41.00	60.00	83.00	96.95		
Scale	49.31	9.63	33.49	37.66	42.42	48.62	55.25	62.01	66.00		
										Min Max	
Scale Score	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0	70.0	80.0	90.0	0.0	100.0
SE	13.90	4.00	1.10	.30	.10	.10	.10	.20	.50		
Reliability	.00	.00	.00	.92	.98	.99	.99	.97	.75		

Figure 7

Scaling Model Used For Calibration	Graded Response Model (GRM)										
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										Min Max	
Scale Score	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0	70.0	80.0	90.0	0.0	100.0
SE	13.90	4.00	1.10	.30	.10	.10	.10	.20	.50		
Reliability	.00	.00	.00	.92	.98	.99	.99	.97	.75		

Figure 8

PREVIEW OF SAMPLE ITEM

Figure 9 is an excerpt from the paper version of the adult five-item short form. This is the paper version format used for all Life Satisfaction instruments. It is important to note, a CAT is not available for paper administration.

Indicate how much you agree or disagree...		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Slightly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Slightly agree	Agree	Strongly agree
PA045m	In most ways, my life is close to perfect	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
PA046	If I could live my life over, I would change almost nothing.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

Figure 9

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Q: I am interested in learning more. Where can I do that?

Review the HealthMeasures website at www.healthmeasures.net.

Q: Are these instruments available in other languages?

Yes! Look at the HealthMeasures website (<http://www.healthmeasures.net/explore-measurement-systems/promis/intro-to-promis/available-translations>) for current information on PROMIS translations.

Q: Can I make my own short form?

Yes, custom short forms can be made by selecting any items from an item bank. This can be scored using the Scoring Service (https://www.assessmentcenter.net/ac_scoring-service).