

Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)

The AUDIT was developed by the World Health Organization to identify persons whose alcohol consumption has become hazardous or harmful to their health. AUDIT is a 10-item screening questionnaire with 3 questions on the amount and frequency of drinking, 3 questions on alcohol dependence, and 4 on problems caused by alcohol.

Target Population: Adults

Populations appropriate for a screening program using AUDIT include primary care, emergency room, surgery, and psychiatric patients; DWI offenders, criminals in court, jail, and prison; persons in the Armed Forces; and workers encountered in employee assistance programs and industrial settings.

Administrative Issues

10 items, 3 subscales
Pencil and paper self-administered, interview, computer assisted
Time required: 2 minutes

Scoring

Time required: 1 minute
Usually scored by hand
Norms available: Normed on heavy drinkers and alcoholics

Psychometrics

Reliability studies done:

- Test-retest
- Internal consistency

Measures of validity derived:

- Content
 - Criterion (predictive, concurrent)
 - Construct
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Clinical Utility of Instrument

The AUDIT screening procedure is linked to a decision process that includes brief intervention with heavy drinkers or referral to specialized treatment for patients who show evidence of more serious alcohol involvement.

Scores between 8 and 15 are most appropriate for simple advice focused on the reduction of hazardous drinking. Scores between 16 and 19 suggest brief counseling and continued monitoring. AUDIT scores of 20 or above clearly warrant further diagnostic evaluation for alcohol dependence.

Domains	Question Number	Item Content
Hazardous Alcohol Use	1	Frequency of drinking
	2	Typical quantity
	3	Frequency of heavy drinking
Dependence Symptoms	4	Impaired control over drinking
	5	Increased salience of drinking
	6	Morning drinking
Harmful Alcohol Use	7	Guilt after drinking
	8	Blackouts
	9	Alcohol-related injuries
	10	Others concerned about drinking

Research Applicability

AUDIT is currently being used in a variety of research projects and epidemiological studies. Research guidelines incorporated into the AUDIT manual suggest further research using this instrument.

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Source Reference

Babor, T.F.; de la Fuente, J.R.; Saunders, J.; and Grant, M. AUDIT. *The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test. Guidelines for use in primary health care*. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization, 1992.

Saunders, J.B.; Aasland, O.G.; Babor, T.F.; de la Puente, J.R.; and Grant, M. Development of the Alcohol Use Disorders Screening Test (AUDIT). WHO collaborative project on early detection of persons with harmful alcohol consumption. II. *Addiction* 88:791-804, 1993.

Supporting References

McRee, B.; Babor, T.F.; and Church, O. *Instructor's Manual for Alcohol Screening and Brief Intervention*. Project NEADA. The University of Connecticut, School of Nursing, 1991.

Fleming, M.F.; Barry, K.L.; and MacDonald, R. The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) in a college sample. *Int J Addict* 26(11):1173-1185, 1991.

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