

EXCERPTED COMMENTS FROM BUROS INSTITUTE REVIEWERS'

1. "IN SUMMARY, THE SCI IS A SOPHISTICATED INSTRUMENT WITH SUBSTANTIAL VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY THAT ALSO PROVIDES PROVOCATIVE AND INTERESTING RESULTS FOR THE CLIENT AS FOR THE THERAPIST. IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR USE WITH A BROAD POPULATION OF BOTH NORMAL AND CLINICAL PROBLEMS. IN ADDITION, IT IS EQUALLY USEFUL FOR RESEARCH AS WELL AS CLINICAL APPLICATIONS AND IT IS THE ONLY MODERN INSTRUMENT THAT MEASURES CONTROL COMPREHENSIVELY ACROSS SEVERAL IMPORTANT DOMAINS.

I agree with the author's contention that deficiencies in sense of control or extreme need for control are central features in many clinical problems including depression, addictions, eating, anxiety, and stress disorders. In addition, it may be a salient element in the prevention and treatment of heart disease.

Although the content of control has been featured in several other theories (learned helplessness, self-efficacy, and need for control), it has not been measured effectively by existing instruments in a comprehensive manner with specific focus on several unique domains. The SCI addresses sense of control on twenty-five different parameters, and features two contrasting modes of control (Assertive, problem-focused mastery of the situation versus learning to accept self or yielding to the situation).

It is notable that the SCI supersedes the Rotter Locus of control and the Wallston Health Locus of control instruments by assessing "whether" the person currently feels a sense of control, in addition to this/her motivation for control and the specific agency for control (self, others, and environment).

Several examples of statements drawn from the instrument illustrate features of control (either positive or negative) to help the therapist reinforce the strengths of the client as well as to current problem area that might be causing some of the clinical problems. In addition, under the heading of "sense of control a nice feature includes specific behaviors such as eating, physical exercise, physical appearance, and body weight categorized separately in one section, whereas cognitive items feature such terms as concentration, relationships, sexuality, career and environment.

Regarding the domain "desire for control" there is an interesting assessment of overcontrol, illustrating several negative consequences for the therapist and the client to consider. I found this to be inherently logical, provocative and helpful to both the client and the therapist in structuring change strategy.

Reviewer #2:

The manual provides a relatively clear and thorough treatment of the problem and need for a comprehensive approach to measuring control.

Item statements for the sense of control and desire for control scales were derived from carefully constructed theoretical rationale, examined for clinical utility and piloted for clarity and accuracy with respect to content. The modes of control scales were constructed on the bases of a careful and extensive content analysis obtained from the responses of 706 mental health professionals and supported empirically through a series of factor analyses.

The profile is made up for 14 indicators with an extensive, interpretive report of the findings clearly designed and written in an easy to understand style. Appropriate cautions are made against making decisions based solely upon information obtained from this report.

Overall the SCI'S performance in differentiating among groups was superior when compared to that for Rotter's Locus of control or Wallston's measure.