

Cultural adaptation and validation of The DEP-ADO: an alcohol and drugs screening test for Indigenous teenagers

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BACKGROUND.

During adolescence the experimentation of alcohol and certain drugs can be considered a common behavior (Lasnier, 2017). However, for some adolescents (about 10%) this experience can become problematic or at risk depending on whether it's repetitive, abusive or that it leads to negative consequences (Huỳnh et al., 2019).

In the general population, there are a number of different valid tests available for youth to assess their adjustment difficulties, few are specifically adapted to Indigenous youth in Canada (Williamson et al., 2014). In order to improve interventions efficiency among Indigenous teenagers, adapting questionnaires to their cultural reality is paramount. In fact, without this cultural adaptation, the results obtained with these questionnaires could minimize or exaggerate the extent of the youth's difficulties (Beals et al., 2005).



OBJECTIVE.

To help school staff and social workers evaluate their youth accurately and better plan their own intervention, the present study aims to adapt and validate the DEP-ADO in its French and English version for Indigenous teenagers in Quebec.

The Detection of alcohol and drug problems in adolescents (DEP-ADO; Germain et al., 2013)

Comprising 25 questions, this questionnaire describes a portrait of the alcohol and cannabis use, drugs use, consequences of alcohol and drug use and problem substance use. The scoring light (green, yellow, red light) allows the questionnaire administrator to detect problem or at-risk use in order to offer the right intervention to the youth. The total scale shows a good internal consistency among a group of francophone youth aged 14 to 17 (Cronbach's alpha = .85). The specificity and sensitivity indices are clearly satisfactory (Landry et al., 2004), compared favorably with other tests targeting similar concepts (Bernard et al., 2005).



METHOD.

Through a **process of co-construction**, a collaborative effort was conducted with two Indigenous Nations of Quebec: Atikamekw (Manawan) and Cree (Mistissini and Waswanipi).

The process of cultural adaptation and validation in 3 steps (Vallerand, 1989; nuanced by Palacio-Quintin, 1991)

1- Production of culturally adapted versions: Consultation with a committee of experts (8 experts; educators, professionals, band council members)

2- Pre-experimentation and follow-up of the corrections following the analysis of the results: Pre-experimentation (50 young people, boys and girls between 12 and 22 years old)

3- Validation: Experimentation with a larger sample (426 young people, 53.4% boys and 46.6% girls, Average age: 14.8 years)

- **Reliability:** Internal consistency measurement (Polychoric alpha)
- **Validity:** Confirmatory factor analysis



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.

1- Production of culturally adapted versions

- Instructions and answer choices have been reviewed and reworded to facilitate understanding.
- Items have been reformulated to facilitate understanding.
- Examples adapted to youth culture have been added.

2- Pre-experimentation and follow-up of the corrections following the analysis of the results

- A few questions or concepts have been reworded or clarified because teenagers reported having some difficulties to understand.

3- Validation

Table 1. Internal consistency measurement

	Number of items	Polychoric Alpha
Alcohol and cannabis	7	.914
Others drugs	7	.862
Consequences	6	.883
Total Score	20	.929

Table 2. Confirmatory factor analysis: Adjustment indices

	Chi-square			RMSEA	CFI
	Value	ddl	p-value		
Alcohol and cannabis	22.281	10	.0137	.054	.996
Others drugs	11.831	11	.3765	.013	.999
Consequences	12.253	9	.1994	.029	.996

Despite the difference in the proportions, it seems that the scoring light can also be used with Indigenous teenagers.



CONCLUSION.



- Referral to a front-line organization specializing in substance addiction
- Targeted program of prevention
- Universal program of prevention