

Outcome Measure	Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)
Sensitivity to Change	Unknown
Population	Paediatrics
Domain	Social Role Participation and Social Competence Psychological Status
Type of Measure	Parent-report, teacher-report, youth self-report
ICF-Code/s	d710-d729
Description	<p>The SDQ (Goodman, 1997) is a brief behavioural screening questionnaire that asks about 25 attributes, some positive and others negative.</p> <p>The 25 SDQ items are divided between five scales of five items each, generating scores for conduct problems, hyperactivity-inattention, emotional symptoms, peer problems and prosocial behaviour. All but the last one are summed to generate a total difficulties score. Ten of the items would generally be thought of as strengths, 14 of which would generally be thought of as difficulties, and one of which—"gets on better with adults than with other children"—is neutral.</p> <p>An informant-rated version of the SDQ can be completed by either the parents or teachers of 4-16 year olds (3), while a self-report version of the SDQ can be completed by 11-16 year olds themselves (6). The extended version of the SDQ includes not just the 25 items on symptoms and positive attributes but also an impact supplement that asks whether the respondent thinks that the child or teenager has a problem, and if so, enquires further about overall distress, social impairment, burden and chronicity. For clinicians and researchers with an interest in psychiatric caseness and the determinants of service use, the impact supplement appears to provide useful additional information without taking up much more of respondents' time.</p> <p>The SDQ is available in over 30 languages and is being widely used in epidemiological, developmental, and clinical research, as well as routine clinical and educational practice.</p>
Properties	<p>Children 4-16 years (11-16 years for self-report). See Goodman (1997, 2000, 2001) and van de Looij-Jansen et al. (2010). Measure selected for Common Data Element (CDE) by the inter-agency Pediatrics TBI Outcomes Workgroup.</p> <p>Psychometric properties of the strengths and difficulties questionnaire.</p> <p>A nationwide epidemiological sample of 10,438 British 5-15-year-olds obtained SDQs from 96% of parents, 70% of teachers, and 91% of 11-15-year-olds. Blind to the SDQ findings, all subjects were also assigned DSM-IV diagnoses based on a clinical review of detailed interview measures.</p> <p>RESULTS:The predicted five-factor structure (emotional, conduct,</p>

	hyperactivity-inattention, peer, prosocial) was confirmed. Internalizing and externalizing scales were relatively "uncontaminated" by one another. Reliability was generally satisfactory, whether judged by internal consistency (mean Cronbach a: .73), cross-informant correlation (mean: 0.34), or retest stability after 4 to 6 months (mean: 0.62). SDQ scores above the 90th percentile predicted a substantially raised probability of independently diagnosed psychiatric disorders (mean odds ratio: 15.7 for parent scales, 15.2 for teacher scales, 6.2 for youth scales)
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - covers an area of social functioning not often covered in other questionnaires, e.g. peer relations and prosocial behaviour subscales -can be downloaded (free) -short -covers a range of age ranges -some Australian norms (7-17 years) -available in many languages -multiple informants -used in research and clinically
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No 16+ availability - no categorical scores
Additional Information	<p>The SDQ is a Core measure in the Psychiatric and Psychological Functioning Domain in McCauley et al (2012)</p> <p>The SDQ (Peer Relations and Prosocial Behaviour subscales) are Core measures in the Social Role Participation and Social Competence Domain in McCauley et al. (2012)</p>
Reviewers	Vicki Anderson Cathy Catroppa

References

Goodman R. J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry. 2001 Nov;40(11):1337-45.