

Test Crit

BF
176
74-3
V. 2
Jed
104

Daniel J. Keyser, Ph.D.

Richard C. Sweetland, Ph.D.

General Editors

TEST CRITIQUES

Volume II

© 1985 Test Corporation of America, a subsidiary of Westport Publishers, Inc., 330 W. 47th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64112. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of Test Corporation of America.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data
(Revised for vol. 2)

Main entry under title:

Test critiques.

Includes bibliographies and indexes.

1. Psychological tests—Evaluation—Collected works. 2. Educational tests and measurements—Evaluation—Collected works. 3. Business—Examinations—Evaluation—Collected works. I. Keyser, Daniel J., 1935-. II. Sweetland, Richard C., 1931-

BF176.T419 1985 150'.28'7 84-26895

ISBN 0-9611286-6-6 (v. 1)

ISBN 0-9611286-7-4 (v. 2)

TEST CORPORATION OF AMERICA

Printed in the United States of America

R. Scott Stehouwer, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychology, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

BECK DEPRESSION INVENTORY

Aaron T. Beck. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Center for Cognitive Therapy.

Introduction

The Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) is a 21-item test presented in multiple-choice format which purports to measure presence and degree of depression in adolescents and adults. Each of the 21 items of the BDI attempts to assess a specific symptom or attitude "which appear(s) to be specific to depressed patients, and which are consistent with descriptions of the depression contained in the psychiatric literature" (Beck, 1970, p. 189). Although the author, Aaron T. Beck, M.D., is associated with the development of the cognitive theory of depression, the Beck Depression Inventory was designed to assess depression independent of any particular theoretical bias.

The BDI was developed by Beck and his associates at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. At that time he was Professor of Psychiatry and also chief of the psychiatry section of Philadelphia General Hospital. In undertaking research on depression, Beck decided it would be useful to develop an inventory for measuring depth of depression and felt such an inventory would be particularly advantageous for research purposes.

The BDI was first developed with psychiatric patients who were drawn from routine admissions to the psychiatric out-patient department of the University of Pennsylvania Hospital and to the psychiatric out-patient department of the Philadelphia General Hospital. The test was developed over a seven-month period starting in June, 1957 with an original sample of 226 patients. A later study, which began in February, 1960, was undertaken over a five-month period with 183 patients.

The original BDI was published in 1961 (Beck, et al., 1961) and was later contained in Beck's (1970) classic work, *Depression: Causes and Treatment*. The original BDI was a 21-item multiple-choice test in which the selections for each item varied from four to seven choices. Each choice was given a weight of zero to three points. A revision was undertaken in 1974, then later in 1978, standardizing each item to four possible choices, each choice still assigned a weight of zero, one, two, or three points. Additionally, a short form of the Beck Depression Inventory has been

The reviewer wishes to acknowledge gratefully the help of Mr. Robert Nykamp in the preparation of this review.