

Applications

The DrInC scales and subscales offer reliable and clinically interpretable indices of different types of adverse consequences of excessive drinking. In clinical practice, the DrInC is an efficient tool for surveying alcohol problems. In initial evaluation, an individual's DrInC scores may be compared with clinical norms to determine the relative severity of overall consequences and of problems in the five specific content areas. When exploring and enhancing client motivation for change, it can be useful to review adverse consequences of drinking (Miller and Rollnick 1991; Miller et al. 1992*b*). In this context, it may be useful to review Lifetime and Recent Consequences with the client at the item level, asking for clarification and examples of each adverse experience. Readministration of the Recent Consequences scale can be used as a monitor of progress during and after treatment.

In program and research contexts, the Lifetime Consequences scale can be useful in characterizing a clinical or research population with regard to aggregate severity of consequences. The Recent Consequences forms are useful when comparisons are desirable for different time windows, such as at pretreatment baseline versus followup. It should be remembered that a Recent Consequences score at followup cannot be compared with a Lifetime Consequences score at baseline because the scales query different periods of time and offer different response options. For pre/post comparisons, the Recent Consequences scale should be administered both before and after the intervention to be evaluated.

A Final Note

This manual reflects a substantial amount of developmental effort by a large group of investigators. We have clarified the psychometric properties of the DrInC in a large and representative clinical sample and have demonstrated its test-retest reliability. Nevertheless, we regard the DrInC to be an instrument in development. This manual is provided to allow other clinicians and researchers to benefit from the first 5 years of research with this instrument. With additional studies, it is likely that this instrument will be further improved and its utility better understood.