

VOLUME
5

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

FORM 90

A Structured Assessment Interview for Drinking and Related Behaviors

PROJECT
MATCH

Test Manual



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
National Institutes of Health

**National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
Project MATCH Monograph Series
Volume 5**

FORM 90

A Structured Assessment Interview for Drinking and Related Behaviors

Test Manual

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FOREWORD

This volume of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) Project MATCH Monograph Series should prove of particular value to the alcoholism treatment and research communities since it introduces Form 90, a series of well-constructed instruments to assess alcohol consumption. Although alcoholism is characterized by additional factors such as adverse physical and psychological effects of drinking as well as dependence on alcohol, the cardinal feature of the problem involves excessive or inappropriate use. Hence, accurate measurement of drinking behavior is of vital interest. Further, precise measurement of ethanol consumption itself is important, since many medical and legal consequences of drinking are specifically associated with use patterns. Finally, assessment of alcohol consumption is of primary importance in evaluating treatment efficacy.

While there are many ways to assess alcohol consumption, and each may be particularly appropriate for a specific purpose, the strategy employed by Form 90 offers unique advantages. Continuous recording of alcohol use provides more objective and sensitive indices of behavioral change than do summary measures of drinking or scores associated with most other dimensions of the problem. In light of this, the two primary outcome variables for Project MATCH were derived from Form 90 data. In addition, the software supporting Form 90 computes a wide variety of statistical data that can be employed in a range of clinical and research settings.

Form 90 is a family of related instruments that generate both baseline and followup information as well as gather data from informants. Beyond incorporating sequential drinking information, Form 90 collects data on other important facets of patient functioning. These include concurrent use of drugs, experience with medical and psychological treatments, and lifestyle activities such as work and school involvement, religious participation, and residential status. The large multisite sample enrolled in Project MATCH allowed derivation of robust, stable psychometric indices for Form 90.

In short, Form 90 has played a major role in Project MATCH; dissemination of the information in this volume will facilitate transfer of Form 90 to other research projects as well as to treatment endeavors. The sincere appreciation of NIAAA, the alcohol research community,

and alcoholism treatment practitioners go to all those from the MATCH investigational team who developed Form 90. Their contribution will doubtless enrich the field and ultimately enhance outcomes from interventions designed to treat alcoholism.

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