

# Juvenile Substance Abuse Profile



[www.online-testing.com](http://www.online-testing.com)

## Scale description Juvenile Substance Abuse Profile

Scale Description

Test Features

**Professional Online Testing Solutions, Inc.**

[www.online-testing.com](http://www.online-testing.com)

[info@online-testing.com](mailto:info@online-testing.com)

The **Juvenile Substance Abuse Profile (JSAP)** is designed for troubled youth (male and female) assessment in juvenile courts, screening programs, school systems and treatment agencies. The JSAP has 116 items and takes 20 minutes to complete. It has 5 measures (scales): **1.** Truthfulness Scale, **2.** Aggressiveness Scale, **3.** Alcohol Scale, **4.** Drugs Scale and **5.** Stress Coping Abilities Scale. JSAP is a quick screening or assessment instrument or test.

### **Applications**

- Juvenile court screening and assessment.
- Juvenile counseling and treatment intake testing.
- Juvenile probation (misdemeanor and felony) risk and needs assessment.
- Juvenile evaluation, counseling and treatment agencies.
- Troubled youth community correction assessment.

## Five Scales (Measures)

The five Juvenile Substance Abuse Profile (JSAP) scales are described as follows:

- 1. Truthfulness Scale:** Measures how open and truthful the juvenile was while completing the test. This scale identifies denial, problem minimization and attempts to fake good.
- 2. Aggressiveness Scale:** Measures how outgoing, bold and self-assertive the juvenile is. High levels of aggressiveness contribute to aggression. In extreme cases, the youth can violate rights of others.
- 3. Alcohol Scale:** Measures the severity of alcohol use and abuse. Alcohol refers to beer, wine and other liquors.
- 4. Drugs Scale:** Measures the severity of illicit drug use and abuse. Drugs refer to marijuana, crack, LSD, cocaine, amphetamines, barbiturates and heroin.
- 5. Stress Coping Abilities Scale:** Measures how well the youth handles stress. High scores (at or above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile) indicate the presence of identifiable emotional or mental health problems.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Juvenile Substance Abuse Profile (JSAP) is a brief, easily administered and automated (computer-scored) troubled youth assessment instrument. Test administration time is on average 20 minutes, and tests are computer-scored within 2½ minutes on-site.

The JSAP was developed specifically for troubled youth substance (alcohol and other drugs) abuse assessment. Yet, it is much more than just another alcohol and drug test. In addition to evaluating alcohol and drugs, the JSAP measures the truthfulness of the youth being tested, quantifies aggressiveness and establishes how well the youth handles stress. We now know that stress exacerbates emotional and mental health symptomatology. A high score is a non-introversive way to screen for emotional and mental health problems.

## Why Use the JSAP?

Domestic violence, substance abuse, delinquency and related problems have risen across the U.S. These statistics underscore the need for standardized and objective screening. **Early detection of substance abuse and related problems facilitate quicker intervention and counseling or treatment.** This type of information also helps in deciding upon supervision, counseling and treatment alternatives.

At one sitting of approximately 20 minutes' duration, staff can acquire a vast amount of relevant information that can be used to help troubled youths straighten out their lives. As noted above, early problem identification facilitates timely intervention and improved outcome results.

## Advantages of Screening

Screening or assessment instruments filter out youths with serious problems that may require referral for a more comprehensive evaluation and/or treatment. This filtering system works as follows.

### Juvenile Substance Abuse Profile

Risk Category	Risk Range Percentile	Total Percentile
Low Risk	0 - 39%	39%
Medium Risk	40 - 69%	30%
<b>Problem Risk</b>	<b>70 - 89%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Severe Problem</b>	<b>90 - 100%</b>	<b>11%</b>

Reference to the above table shows that a problem is not identified until a scale score is at the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher. This procedure is eminently fair, and it avoids both extremes, i.e., over-identification and under-identification of problems.

A court, school, probation department or agency's policy might refer youth with severe problems (11%) for further evaluation or treatment services. In that case, 11% of the people screened (Severe Problem) would be referred. **In this example, 89% of the youths screened would not be referred for additional, as well as expensive, services.**

**Budgetary savings (dollars) would be large with no compromises in clients receiving appropriate evaluation and/or treatment services.** Indeed, more youths would receive help. Without an objective and standardized screening program, there is usually more risk of over or under-utilization of additional professional services.

#### Test Booklets

JSAP test booklets are provided free. These booklets contain 116 items and are written at a 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading level. If a youth can read the newspaper, they can read the JSAP.

#### Reports

In brief, JSAP reports summarize the youth's self-reported history, explain what attained scale scores mean and offer specific score-related recommendations.

Within 2½ minutes of test data entry, automated (computer-scored) 3-page reports are printed on-site. These reports summarize a lot of helpful information in an easily understood format. For example, reports include a JSAP profile (graph), which summarizes scale scores at a glance. Also included are attained scale scores, an explanation of what each score means and specific score-related recommendations. In addition, significant items (direct admissions) are highlighted, and answers to a built-in interview (last sequence of items) are presented. Emphasis is placed on having meaningful reports that are helpful and easily understood.

#### Reliability and Validity

The JSAP has a proprietary built-in database that insures inclusion of all administered tests in a confidential (no names) manner. JSAP reliability and validity research is reported in the document titled "JSAP: An Inventory of Scientific Findings." And, annual database analysis further demonstrates that JSAP scales have very high reliability and validity coefficients.

For example, the internal consistencies (coefficient alphas) for JSAP scales are reported in the following table for troubled youths (N=532) screened in the year 2002. This is one among several research studies.

### JSAP Reliability Coefficients (N=532, 2002)

<b>JSAP Scales</b>	<b>Coefficient Alpha</b>	<b>Significance Level</b>
Truthfulness Scale	<b>.86</b>	p<.001
Aggressiveness Scale	<b>.86</b>	p<.001
Alcohol Scale	<b>.89</b>	p<.001
Drugs Scale	<b>.89</b>	p<.001
Stress Coping Abilities	<b>.89</b>	p<.001

All JSAP scales have alpha coefficients well above the professionally accepted standard of .75 and are highly reliable. All coefficient alphas are significant at the p<.001 level.

Several troubled youth studies used several validation methods. Early studies used criterion measures and were validated with many other tests, e.g., Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) L-Scale and F-Scale, 16PF, Treatment Intervention Inventory-Juvenile, ACIDI-Corrections Version II, etc. Much of the research is summarized in the document titled "JSAP: An Inventory of Scientific Findings." Subsequent discriminant validity and predictive validity database research supports JSAP reliability and validity.

#### Software

The JSAP is available in Windows diskettes. Windows diskettes require a one-time computer setup procedure after which JSAP data diskettes (25 or 50 test applications) are used to score and print reports on-site. Training manuals are provided, and new test users can be walked through these scoring procedures over BDS's telephone line.

Proprietary JSAP data diskettes contain 25 or 50 test applications. These 3½" diskettes score, interpret and print reports on-site. Once a JSAP account is established, ordered diskettes are mailed to users. When all test applications are used, diskettes are returned to BDS where the test data is downloaded into the JSAP database for subsequent database analysis. The proprietary "delete names" program is activated by the test user with a few keystrokes to delete all the youths' names from diskettes before they are returned. Deleting all juvenile names insures protection of each youth's confidentiality.

The "JSAP: Orientation and Training Manual" explains how the JSAP works and should be read by staff. The "JSAP: Computer Operating Guide" explains how to score tests, print or store reports and discusses other unique JSAP computer-related features.

#### Database

The JSAP system contains a proprietary built-in database. Earlier, it was noted that all JSAP used diskettes are returned to BDS and the test data is downloaded into the JSAP database. This expanding database allows ongoing research and testing program summary features that were not possible before. Ongoing research insures quality control. Annual testing program summaries provide for program self-evaluation.

#### Built-in Database

The JSAP permits ongoing research and annual program summary – at no additional cost. As discussed earlier, when the 25 or 50-test diskettes are used, the used diskettes are returned to BDS and downloaded

into the expanding JSAP database. Advantages of this proprietary database are many and include free database research analysis and free annual summary reports.

In summary, all returned JSAP diskettes' test data is centrally filed in the JSAP database. This database has many advantages. Database analysis permits ongoing cost efficient research that includes scale alpha coefficients, ANOVA, frequency distributions, correlations, cross-tab statistics along with reliability, validity and accuracy determinations.

### **Staff Member Input**

The JSAP is to be used in conjunction with experienced staff judgment. When available, school and court records should be reviewed, as they can contain important information not provided or incorrectly provided by the youth being tested. Experienced staff should also interview the client. For these reasons, the following statement is contained in each JSAP report: "Juvenile Substance Abuse Profile (JSAP) results are confidential and should be considered working hypotheses. No decision should be based solely upon these results. The JSAP is to be used in conjunction with experienced staff judgment."

### **Unique JSAP Features**

**Truthfulness Scale:** Identifies denial, problem minimization and faking. It is now known that many juveniles attempt to minimize their problems. A Truthfulness Scale is a necessary component in contemporary tests. The JSAP Truthfulness Scale has been validated with the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI), polygraph exams, other tests, truthfulness studies and experienced staff judgment. The JSAP Truthfulness Scale has been demonstrated to be reliable, valid and accurate. In some respects, the JSAP Truthfulness Scale is similar to the MMPI's L and F-Scales. It consists of a number of items that most people agree or disagree with.

**Truth-Corrected Scores:** Have proven to be very important for assessment accuracy. This proprietary truth correction process is comparable to the MMPI K-Scale correction. The JSAP Truthfulness Scale has been correlated with the other 5 scales. The Truth Correction equation converts raw scores to Truth-Corrected scores. Truth-Corrected scores are more accurate than raw scores. Raw scores reflect what the juvenile wants you to know. Truth-Corrected scores reveal what the juvenile is attempting to hide.

**Aggressiveness Scale:** Measures how outgoing, bold and self-assertive the youth is. High levels of aggressiveness contribute to aggression. In extreme cases, the youth can violate the rights of others.

**Stress Coping Abilities Scale:** Measures how well the juvenile handles stress, tension and pressure. And, we now know that stress exacerbates emotional and mental health symptomatology. This scale is a non-introversive way to screen for established (diagnosable) mental health problems.

**More than just another alcohol or drug test.** In addition to alcohol and drugs, the JSAP assesses other important areas of inquiry like truthfulness, denial and faking, aggressiveness, emotional/mental health problems, etc. The JSAP is specifically designed for juvenile screening.

**Three ways to give the JSAP.** The JSAP can be administered in three different ways: **1.** Paper-pencil test booklet format is the most popular testing procedure. JSAP English and Spanish test booklets and answer sheets are available. **2.** Tests can be given directly on the computer screen. Some agencies dedicate computers for JSAP testing. And, **3.** Human voice audio in English or Spanish is available. These three test administration modes are discussed in the "JSAP: Orientation and Training Manual."

Each test administration mode has advantages and some limitations. BDS offers these three test modes so test users can select the administration mode that is optimally suited to their needs.

**Reading Impaired Assessment:** Reading impaired juveniles represent 20+ percent of the juveniles tested. This represents a serious problem to other juvenile tests. BDS has developed an alternative for dealing with this problem: **Human Voice Audio**.

**Human Voice Audio:** Presentation of the JSAP is in English and Spanish. Juveniles' passive vocabularies are often greater than their active vocabularies. Hearing items read out loud often helps reduce cultural and communication problems. This administration mode requires earphones and simple instructions to orient the juvenile to the up-down arrow keys on the computer keyboard. Human Voice Audio is an alternative approach for screening reading impaired juveniles.

**Confidentiality:** BDS encourages test users to delete juvenile names from diskettes before they are returned to BDS. Once juvenile names are deleted, they are gone and cannot be retrieved. Deleting juvenile names does not delete demographics or test data, which is downloaded into the JSAP database for subsequent analysis. This proprietary name deletion procedure involves a few keystrokes and insures juvenile confidentiality.

**Test Data Input Verification:** Allows the person that inputs test data from the answer sheet into the computer to verify the accuracy of their data input. In brief, test data is input twice, and any inconsistencies between the first and second data entries are highlighted until corrected. When the first and second data entries match, or are the same, the staff person can continue. This proprietary Data Input Verification procedure is optional, yet strongly recommended by BDS.

**Inventory of Scientific Findings:** Much of the JSAP research has been gathered together in a document titled "JSAP: An Inventory of Scientific Findings." This document summarizes JSAP research chronologically - as the studies were completed. This chronological reporting format was established largely because of the JSAP database, which permits annual database analysis of all tests administered.

**Orientation and Training Manual:** The JSAP: Orientation and Training Manual (O&T Manual) explains how the JSAP works. It is a must read for staff that will be using the JSAP. O&T Manual content includes, but is not limited to, the following: instructions for testing, an explanation of how scores are derived, a clarification of how court-related information is used, a description of unique JSAP features and much more.

**Staff Training:** BDS's staff is available to participate in JSAP training programs conducted by statewide programs, departments and high volume agencies in the United States. Sometimes, smaller volume providers get together for collective (multiple providers) on-site training. BDS typically participates in 4-hour or 6-hour JSAP training sessions. This training can include hands-on computer scoring, as desired. BDS gives attendees certificates attesting to their JSAP training.

**Free Examination Kit:** Contains a two-test demonstration diskette, test booklet and training manuals. The examination kit is available on a 30-day cost free basis. Demo diskettes are in Windows format, a one time setup procedure is required. BDS does want the demonstration diskette and test booklet returned within 30 days.

**Support Services:** BDS provides a full range of support services. These services include e-mail, fax and telephone availability, provision of test-related information, telephone walk-through assistance, staff training and test consultation. Support services and test-related materials are provided free.