

## Youth RADAR - Scoring

The Youth RADAR is an emotional health screening tool designed for use with high school populations. It is based on a combination of risk and protective factors associated with the development of mental health difficulties. The instrument consists of six subscales, each with five items. The subscales are:

1. School Connectedness
2. Family Relations
3. Academic Success
4. Peer Acceptance
5. Sporting Interest
6. Acceptance of Appearance

Scores on the subscales are combined to produce a Total RADAR score. Higher scores on the RADAR, and each of its subscales, are suggestive of better social/emotional functioning and therefore with lower mental health risk; conversely, lower scores are associated lower social/emotional functioning and therefore with higher mental health risk.

### Validation

The Youth RADAR was validated on a sample of 838 High School students across six schools in New South Wales, Australia. Reliability of the scale, measured by Cronbach's alpha, was .91 for the Total RADAR score, with  $\alpha$  scores on the subscales ranging from .73 to .90 (see Table 1 for descriptive data). Moreover, the Youth RADAR demonstrated high concurrent validity with both the Centre for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale for Children ( $r = -.67^{**}$ ) and the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire ( $r = .69^{**}$ ).

### Administration

The authors recommend computer based administration, via an online survey tools, such as SurveyMonkey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/>) or SurveyGizmo (<https://www.surveygizmo.com/>). The Youth RADAR takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Respondents indicate the extent to which items describe them/their life on a 5 point scale – from 1 (not at all like me/my life) to 5 (very much like me/my life).

### Scoring

Subscales are scored by summing scores of the five items on the subscale. Scores on negatively worded items (indicated below with an \*) are reversed. Subscale scores range from 5 – 25; the Total Youth RADAR scores range from 30 – 150.

School Connectedness Subscale; 1, 7, 13, 19, 25

Family Relations Subscale: 2, 8, 14, 20, 26

Academic Success Subscale: 3, 9, 15, 21, 27

Sporting Interest Subscale: 4, 10, 16, 22, 28

Peer Acceptance Subscale: 5, 11, 17, 23, 29

Acceptance of Appearance Subscale: 6, 12, 18, 24, 30

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Results can be interpreted by reference to the means and SDs in Table 1, below. Scores more than one standard deviation below the mean may be suggestive of an atypical response. The authors recommend interpretation according specific age and gender data.

**Table 1. Descriptive Data and Cronbach Alpha of the Youth RADAR and Subscales by Gender and Age Group**

	Total RADAR Mean (SD)	SC Mean (SD)	FR Mean (SD)	AS Mean (SD)	SI Mean (SD)	PR Mean (SD)	AA Mean (SD)
Total Sample (N=838)	118.74 (16.95)	20.13 (3.98)	20.92 (4.30)	19.87 (4.16)	18.06 (5.38)	21.27 (3.50)	18.48 (4.65)
All Boys	119.88 (16.96)	19.82 (4.03)	20.88 (4.17)	19.60 (4.28)	18.94 (5.09)	21.06 (3.66)	19.59 (4.08)
Boys Yrs 7-9	121.49 (17.29)	20.08 (4.03)	21.32 (3.92)	19.87 (4.07)	19.27 (5.02)	21.10 (3.89)	19.85 (4.10)
Boys Yrs 10-12	118.12 (16.46)	19.53 (4.03)	20.40 (4.39)	19.30 (4.48)	18.57 (5.16)	21.03 (3.40)	19.30 (4.04)
All Girls	117.20 (16.83)	20.55 (3.87)	20.99 (4.48)	20.25 (3.99)	16.88 (5.54)	21.54 (3.25)	16.99 (4.95)
Girls Yrs 7-9	119.56 (16.49)	20.73 (3.96)	21.45 (4.16)	20.12 (3.92)	17.68 (5.16)	21.67 (3.38)	17.91 (4.53)
Girls Yrs 10-12	113.76 (16.84)	20.28 (3.73)	20.32 (4.85)	20.44 (4.08)	15.70 (5.88)	21.35 (3.06)	15.66 (5.25)
$\alpha$	.91	.87	.87	.86	.90	.73	.88

SC School Connectedness, FR Family Relations, AS Academic Success, SI Sporting Interest, PA Peer Acceptance, AA Acceptance of Appearance

### Further information

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