

Lucio, E M. , Hernandez-Cervantes, Q., Duran, C., & Butcher, J. N. (2010). Effect of Age and Type of School on MMPI-A Scores in a 13-18 Year Old Mexican Adolescent Sample. *International Journal of Hispanic Psychology*, 2, 177-192.

Abstract

The question as to whether the MMPI-A can be appropriately used to assess a 13-year-old adolescent has been addressed in past research on the test. This study was designed to provide information on the adequacy of administering the personality inventory to 13-year-old Mexican adolescents; in addition, the current Mexican MMPI-A norms were examined to determine their validity when using them with this younger group selected according to the same sampling criteria as the normative sample. A sample of 203 13-year-old adolescents (83 girls and 120 boys) was compared with the Mexican normative sample of 4050. The participants were obtained from both public and private schools (54% from public senior high schools); all participating schools (public and private) were selected to represent the different geographical and socioeconomic zones of Mexico City. Results indicate that the MMPI-A can be used with 13-year-old adolescents as long as they can understand the test and answer it properly. However, some differences between public and private schools on the MMPI-A validity scales were found. It was concluded that reading and comprehension levels likely differ between some of the Mexican schools. Therefore, it would be important to assure that the adolescent can read and comprehend the items at a 6th grade level in order to produce valid test results.