Personality Inventory for Children, Second Edition
(PIC-2)

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Purpose:
• Group- or individually-administered and norm-referenced parent-report measure for ages 5-19 (Kindergarten-12th grade), assessing both broad and narrow dimensions of behavioral-, emotional-, cognitive-, and interpersonal-adjustment. The PIC-2 is one of three coordinated instruments: It provides the parent’s description of the child; the PIY provides the child’s view as a self-report; and the SBS supplies the teacher rating. While each of these instruments has been validated to function independently, together they can provide an integrated picture of the child’s adjustment at home, at school, and in the community.

Provides:
• The standard, 275-item inventory includes three response validity scales, nine Adjustment scales (Cognitive Impairment, Family Dysfunction, Psychological Discomfort, Impulsivity/Distractibility, Reality Distortion, Social Withdrawal, Delinquency, Somatic Concern, and Social Skills Deficits), and 21 corresponding subscales. A 96-item short-form is available. Items are presented in “true-false” format and written at a 4th grade reading level.

Standardization Issues:
• Two separate standardization collections took place between 1995-2000, and included the sampling of the clinical-group (“referred cases;” n=1,551 of children ages 5-18) comprised of ratings for clinical and special education students, and a “non-identified” standardization sample (n=2,306 of children grades K-12). The clinical group—consistent with referral patterns, included significantly more boys than girls (68% vs. 32%) and a high minority percentage (about 30%). The non-identified group’s composition appeared fairly representative of American school children for variables of gender, age, geographic region, parental education, SES, and ethnicity.

Reliability and Validity Issues:
• Internal-consistencies were good with mean values in the .80s being evidenced for both non-clinical and clinical groups on the long form. Slightly lower (as expected), but still generally-acceptable, were seen on the Behavioral Summary (the brief form). Test-retest and interrater
reliabilities were modest (medians=.82 for Adjustment Scales and .77 for subscales) with the non-clinical group and higher for the clinical group. Validity evidence was reported through factor-analysis, correlation with other (formal and informal) measures, and “expected” differential patterns across 11 identified diagnostic groups.

Additional Points:

- Norms are separated by gender, but not by age-groups. The practical impact of age-differences was considered but reported to be small. Significant differences on obtained scores by gender necessitated the provision of separate norms.
- Fathers tended to report slightly fewer problems than did mothers in the Clinical-group, however, interrater reliability (fathers-mothers) reported good agreement rates (.68+). This was, however, based on fairly small sample size comparisons (general sample n=60; referred sample n=65). In the general standardization group, differences appeared negligible.
- The inclusion of validity scales is helpful in evaluating the rater’s responding. The brief form (Behavioral Summary version) does not include the validity scales.
- Reviews of the inventory’s predecessors (PIC, PIC-R) were good, and this version’s improved psychometric qualities, normative-base, easier reading level, expansion of items to include substance abuse and eating disorders, and adjustments to wording of individual items are seen as improvements. In addition, the PIC-2’s revision purposefully provided overlap for a closer match with the student-completed form (PIY), enhancing multi-informant interpretations.
- The manual was revised and includes enhanced material that may be helpful in making clinical inferences.
- Items are presented as “true-false,” and clinicians who prefer “ratings” may consider other instruments.
- The original PIC (1977) was a forerunner to current assessment systems, providing a coordinated-approach to the evaluation of adjustment problems through multiple-informants.