

Family Assessment Device

David Fitzgerald, March 2018

This scale was asked in survey 7 of the 1973-78 cohort.

Family Assessment Device

The family assessment scale is the six positive items from the General Functioning (GF6+) subscale of the McMaster Family Assessment Device (FAD) validated by Boterhoven et al (2015). There were 6 items with responses Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, and Strongly Disagree, scored 1 to 4. The 6 items were

- In times of crisis we can turn to each other for support
- Individuals are accepted for what they are
- We can express feelings to each other
- We feel accepted for what we are
- We are able to make decisions about how to solve problems
- We confide in each other

The General Functioning (GF6+) subscale of the McMaster Family Assessment Device (FAD) was calculated by taking the mean average of the values 1 to 4 for all six items. Any record with a missing value did not get a calculated subscale.

The MatCH sub-study used any subscale value greater than 2 to identify unhealthy families, as identified in Boterhoven et al's validation. About 25% of the cohort had the value exactly 2 so by this definition they were just within the healthy range; 18% of the cohort reported being greater than 2 and hence 'unhealthy'.

Figure 2: Distribution of General Functioning (GF6+) subscale of the McMaster Family Assessment Device for Survey 7 of the 1973-78 cohort

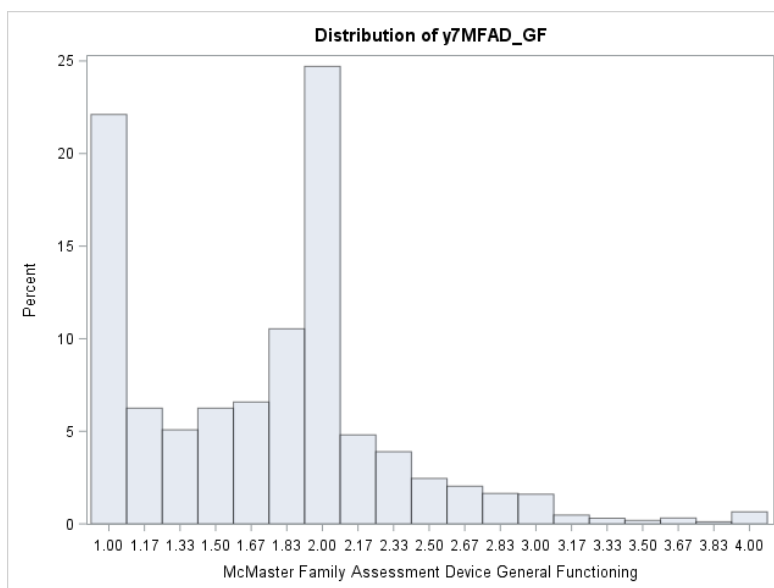


Figure 2 is very bi-modal with peaks at 1 and 2 but otherwise has gradual movement across the values. The peaks were because 45% of the women gave consistently the same response for all 6 of the items and these consistent responses were almost all 'strongly agree' and 'agree'. These single column responses may have been the reality as the women saw it, but they could also be suggestive of the women filling in one column without careful consideration.

SAS code for deriving the Work Family Conflict scale

```
** Family Assessment Device, General Functioning ** ;  
array qq57 (6) y7q57a y7q57b y7q57c y7q57d y7q57e y7q57f ;  
if nmiss(of qq57(*)) = 0 then y7MFAD_GF = mean(of qq57(*)) ;  
** McMaster Family Assessment Device General Functioning ** ;
```

References

Botelho de Haan KL, Hafekost J, Lawrence D, . (2015) Reliability and validity of a short version of the general functioning subscale of the McMaster Family Assessment Device. *Family Process* 54: 116–123.