

Migrant Farmworker Stress Inventory (MFWSI)

Overview

The Migrant Farmworker Stress Inventory (MFWSI) is a 39-item self-report instrument that assesses the quality and severity of stress inherent in migrant farmwork. This instrument was developed for adult migrant farmworkers.

Testing Condition

The MFWSI is user friendly and thus presents few difficulties with respect to test administration. The MFWSI requires a 6th grade literacy level and takes between 10 and 15 minutes to complete. For those participants who have difficult reading, the MFWSI can be verbally administered.

Self-Administration

Respondents are asked to rate how stressful they find the experience described in each statement. Respondents rate each item that they have experienced on a 5-point scale ("Have Not Experienced" to "Extremely Stressful"). If respondents have not experienced that statement, they circle "Have Not Experienced" under the statement.

The following administration instructions appear on the MFWSI form:

Below are a number of statements that migrant farmworkers have reported as stressful. For each statement that you have experienced, **circle only one** of the numbers, according to how stressful you find the situation.

If the statement does not apply to you, circle number 0: Have Not Experienced.

Scoring & Interpretation

Each item is scored from 0 to 4. The total MFWSI score is obtained by summing the scores for all 39 items. Possible MFWSI scores range from 0 to 156, with higher scores indicating a greater degree of stress related to the migrant farmworker lifestyle. The notion of caseness signifies potentially significant symptomatology that may impair an individual's functioning. The caseness threshold for the MFWSI is a score of 80, which represents approximately the upper 25% of scores. Individuals who score 80 or greater may be experiencing relatively high levels of migrant farmworker stress. These individuals may be at greater risk for the experience of psychological difficulties such as anxiety, depression, and suicidal behavior.

MFWSI

Below are a number of statements that migrant farmworkers have reported as stressful. For each statement that you have experienced, **circle only one** of the numbers according to how stressful you find the situation.

If the statement does not apply to you, circle number 0: Have Not Experienced.

**0 = HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED
 1 = NOT AT ALL STRESSFUL
 2 = SOMEWHAT STRESSFUL
 3 = MODERATELY STRESSFUL
 4 = EXTREMELY STRESSFUL**

STATEMENTS

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | I have difficulty communicating in the English language. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2. | I have to work in bad weather. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 3. | There are not enough Spanish radio or television shows in this area. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 4. | Because of the physical nature of farmwork, I have health problems. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5. | At times I have not been able to buy things that I want because I make little money. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 6. | I do not have adequate medical care. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 7. | At times I have to work long hours. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 8. | It is difficult to be away from family members. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 9. | I have had to adjust to the different foods in this country. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 10. | Due to following migrant farmwork, sometimes I do not feel settled (that I am often on the move). | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 11. | Because I feel isolated, I find it hard to meet people. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 12. | I have been taken advantage of by my employer, supervisor, or landlord. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 13. | Sometimes I don't feel at home. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 14. | I worry about not having a permit to work in this country. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 15. | Sometimes I feel that my housing is inadequate. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 16. | Sometimes I have difficulty finding a place to live. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 17. | I worry about my relationship with my partner. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 18. | I find it difficult to talk about my feelings to other people. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

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STATEMENTS

| | | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19. | There is not enough water to drink when I am working. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 20. | I do not have anyone to care for my children while I am working. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 21. | Because of farmwork, I do not have time to get things done outside of work. . | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 22. | My life has become more difficult because my partner is no longer with me (because he or she has moved or has died). | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 23. | It is difficult to be away from friends. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 24. | I worry about the values that my children are being exposed to in this country. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 25. | It bothers me that other people drink too much alcohol. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 26. | I do not have reliable transportation. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 27. | There are no stores nearby. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 28. | I have experienced discrimination in this country. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 29. | Sometimes I have difficulty finding a job. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 30. | I worry about being deported. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 31. | Migrating to this country was difficult. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 32. | Sometimes I feel that the conditions of the bathrooms are bad. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 33. | I worry about who my children are spending time with. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 34. | I have been physically or emotionally abused by my partner. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 35. | It is difficult to complete the paperwork necessary to receive social services. . | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 36. | I do not get enough credit from other family members for the work I do. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 37. | I have difficulty understanding other people when they speak English. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 38. | I worry about my children's education. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 39. | It bothers me that other people use drugs. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |