

National Core Indicators (NCI) Background Study

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Introduction



- The study purpose is to:
 - Establish the reliability and validity of 31 background questions (and related sub-questions) from the NCI Adult Consumer Survey (NCI-ACS)
- Working with three participating states: **Oklahoma, Georgia** and Washington state
- Evaluate the different approaches and rigor to background data collection across states

UMN's Task

- To establish the consistency (reliability) and accuracy and meaningfulness (... validity) of the background data by:
 - Comparing data collected from multiple existing sources by contractors for data collection in each state and UMN
 - Conducting interviews with guardians or staff members (and people with disabilities)
 - Approximately 15 participants per state

Characteristics of Good Measurement

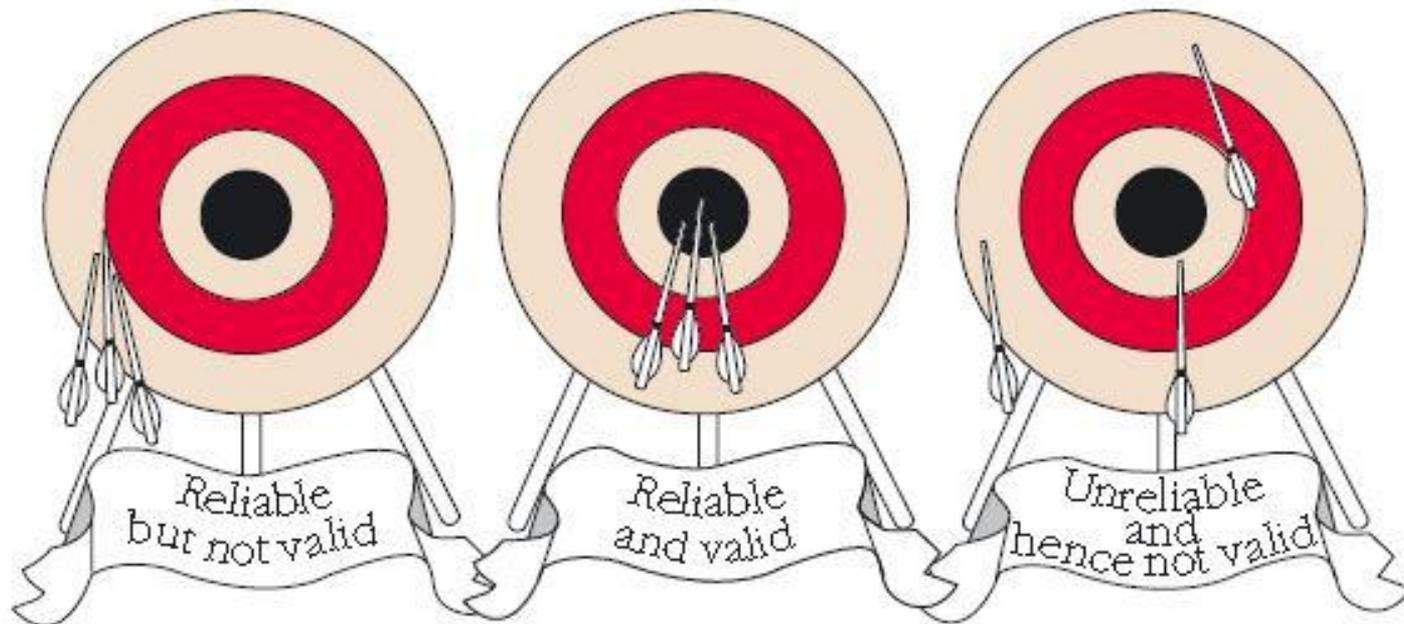


Figure 5.1 *Reliability and validity.* (Source: Open University, 1979, Classification and Measurement, DE304, Block 5, The Open University, Milton Keynes, p. 68)

Why does it Matter?



- If data are **not** reliable and valid:
 - Conclusions we make based on it are not correct
 - Can mislead data consumers
 - We are wasting people's time and money
 - Don't provide useful information to improve services

Focus: Oklahoma

- Data collection:
 - Data management by a university
 - Data sources:
 - State administrative data
 - Interview with individual or proxy
 - Individualized plan
 - Phone call to house staff or family
 - Interviews conducted by an ICI project staff

Focus: Georgia

- Data collection:
 - Data management by a non-profit organization
 - Data sources:
 - State administrative data
 - Case manager or provider files
 - Interviews with individual or proxy

NCI Background Section Areas

Personal: e.g. Does this person have a legal/court-appointed guardian?

Employment: e.g. Paid individual job in a community-based setting:
a) Was this person engaged in this activity during the two-week period?

Volunteering: e.g. Unpaid activity in a community-based setting
a) Was this person engaged in this activity during the two-week period?

General Health: e.g. When was the last time this person had an eye examination/vision screening?

Mental Health: e.g. Does this person currently take medications for behavioral challenges?

Specific Health: e.g. If female, when was her last mammogram?

Residential: e.g. Does the person own his or her home?

Supports: e.g. What amount of paid support does this person receive at home?

Results: Reliability



- Compared to other sources, **state administrative data** tended to be most reliable in both states (88% in OK and 96% in GA)
- Data from *phone calls to family/individuals or proxy* as well as *individualized plans* tended to be the least reliable (OK)

Results: Reliability cont.

- Questions related to **employment** (OK = 90%, GA = 100%), **volunteering** (OK = 100%, GA = 98%) and **specific health** (OK = 93%, GA = 94%) had the highest reliability in both states
- Questions related to *general health* tended to be the least reliable across multiple sources (65% for OK and 84% for GA)

Results: Validity



- Extent to which different data sources agreed with a consensus (agreed) final answer
- Overall, NCI background data across multiple sources for both states demonstrated good validity
- *Interview with family/individual or proxy as a data collection method and general health as a content area produced the lowest validity coefficients – consistent with reliability findings*

Summary

- For NCI background section, it is a good idea to rely on existing *state administrative data*
- Be cautious when interpreting data on *general health* of the person with IDD
- Discrepancies between data sources are for various reasons:
 - unclear wording of the questions
 - inconsistent administration of the questions
 - lack of knowledge of the individual
 - individual's lack of ability to understand questions
 - IPs that have not been updated
- These are only preliminary results that will be refined based on additional data!

Implication and Next Steps

- Determine how each state/ contractor gathers data – what sources are used and how is consensus reached to establish validity for reporting?
- What are the factors that lead to unreliable data?
- Are there questions that we cannot or do not need to ask in the background section?
- If we cannot get reliable answers, we cannot have a valid data.
- Data from WA needs to be added to the results