

## The McMaster Family Assessment Device (FAD)/Family Assessment Device 12

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**Population/Age Group:** Each family member over the age of 12

**Purpose:** The McMaster Family Assessment Device (FAD) is a self-report measure of family functioning. Adequate test-retest reliability (.66-.76) and concurrent validity have been reported. Clinical cutoff scores indicating healthy versus unhealthy functioning have been established with sensitivity and specificity.

**Description:** The FAD provides a good orientation for family members to think about their strengths and weaknesses and is a useful introduction for a clinician to use in targeting problem areas in the family. The FAD scores are a family member's perception of his or her family functioning.

The FAD includes 60 items. Items are scored on a 4-point scale from 1 "healthy" to 4 "unhealthy." The instrument provides scores for seven scales, including problem-solving, communication, roles, affective responsiveness, affective involvement, behavior control, and overall functioning.

The FAD takes about 20 minutes to complete.

**Scoring and Interpretation:** Scores for individual items as well as individual dimensions range from 1-4 with a higher score indicating poorer functioning. Clinical cutoff scores indicating healthy versus unhealthy functioning have been established with sensitivity and specificity. A score that is greater than or equal to cut-off scores indicates that the family is demonstrating unhealthy functioning on that scale. A score that is less than the cut-off scores indicates that the family is demonstrating healthy functioning on that scale.

Scale	Cutoff	Mean	SD
Problem Solving	2.20	2.32	.53
Communication	2.20	2.37	.44
Affective involvement	2.10	2.32	.55
Affective responsiveness	2.20	2.36	.57
Roles	2.30	2.37	.40
Behavior control	1.90	2.14	.49
General Functioning	2.00	2.27	.51

1. Epstein, N., Baldwin, L., and Bishop, D (1983). The McMaster family assessment device. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*. 9, 171-180.