

National Child Development Study

Notes on the: **BRISTOL SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT GUIDE**

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**Background**

**NB:** Based on notes appearing in the *NCDS1 Coding Frame*, page 72

The British Social Adjustment Guide (BSAG) was included in the first and second NCDS follow-ups (NCDS1 and NCDS2). The Guide has been completed and scored in accordance with the general instructions in BSAG manual (Stott, 1965), which should be consulted before the data are used.

The material consists of:

- the **Guide**, completed by the teacher;
- a **Transparent template** which, when superimposed on the guide, allows the allocation of serial letters and numbers to the aspects of the behaviour on the guide; which are then transferred to
- the **Coding Form** for the Guide by ringing the same letters and numbers on the form.

The BSAG consist of a large number of 'phrases' which describe a child's behaviour. These 'phrases' are grouped on the Guide into 'paragraphs' under a heading (eg: 'Response to greeting'). The teacher is asked to underline the 'phrases' which describe the child's behaviour. Most of these 'phrases' can be allocated serial letters and a number. These were specially designed for the NCDS Coding Form and are different from those used in the published Scoring form for use with the Guides.

Serial letters and numbers are allocated so that certain aspects of behaviour can be grouped together. For example, it is assumed that the aspect of behaviour denoted by UA1 is on the same continuum or belongs to the same 'syndrome' as UA2 and UA6; and, indeed, as UB6, since the first letter indicates the group on the Coding Form to which the 'phrase' belongs. Thus all serial letters and numbers beginning with letter 'U' are in the same group, on the assumption that the general behavioural pattern which underlies these individual descriptions or 'phrases' is the same - in this instance 'Unforthcomingness'. It must be stressed that this assumption has not yet been reliably verified. The 'Group' or 'Syndrome' to which each particular 'phrase' is allocated was agreed after discussion with Stott in 1965 and is not necessarily the same as in the published *Manual* or *Scoring Form*. When the Guide has been coded and the serial letters and numbers transferred to the NCDS Coding Form, the total number of ringed letters and numbers in each 'Group' is calculated and recorded. These totals are regarded as the 'Syndrome' scores, giving some quantitative assessment of the behaviour pattern in question. As stressed above, given the present state of knowledge, these should be viewed with caution and the individual 'phrases' which make up a 'Syndrome' should be scrutinised carefully before any interpretations are made. Finally, the 'Syndrome' totals are added together to give a figure which indicates, fairly crudely, the total amount of behavioural deviance (or maladjustment?) as measured by the Guide.

Stott D H (1963) *The social-adjustment of children: Manual to the Bristol Social-Adjustment Guides*. University of London Press

Stott D H (1969) *The social-adjustment of children: Manual to the Bristol Social-Adjustment Guides*. University of London Press

Stott D H (1987) *The social adjustment of children: Manual to the Bristol Social Adjustment Guides*. London: Hodder and Stoughton

**BSAG 'SYNDROMES'**

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<b><i>Serial Letter</i></b>	<b><i>Phrases</i></b>	<b><i>Syndrome</i></b>
U	UA1-9, UB1-9	Unforthcomingness
W	WA1-7, WB1-6	Withdrawal
D	DA1-7, DB1-7, DC1-6	Depression
X	XA1-8, XB1-8	Anxiety
HA	HA1-8, HB1-8, HC1-8	Hostility towards adults
K	KA1-7, KB1-7, KC1-7	Writing-off of adults and adult standards
L	LC1-8, LD1-5	Anxiety for acceptance by children
HC	JA1-7, JB1-3	Hostility towards children
R	RA3-7, RB1	Restlessness
I	IM1-7, IN1-6	Inconsequential behaviour
M	MA1-7, MB1-5	Miscellaneous symptoms
M	MN1-7	Miscellaneous 'Nervous' symptoms
BSAG score	All above phrases	Total behavioural deviance
<b><i>Other</i></b>	<b><i>All phrases below</i></b>	<b><i>Do not contribute to BSAG score 'syndromes'</i></b>
AT	AT1-5	Attendance
AP	AP1-5	Appearance
ST	ST1-6	Miscellaneous
SR	SR1-2	Health factors - 1
SO	SO1-9	Health factors - 2
PD	PD1-7	Health factors - 3
PE	PE1-6	Size

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## BSAG in NCDS1

**NB: Based on notes appearing in the NCDS SIR database and reproduced in the NCDS Data Dictionary)**

The Bristol Social Adjustment Guides (BSAG) were designed to describe the child's behaviour in particular settings. The Guides have been completed and scored in accordance with the general instructions in Stott(1965),The Manual to the Bristol Social Adjustment Guides, University of London Press, which should be consulted before the data is used. Teachers completed the Guides for study members by underlining 'items of behaviour' they thought described the child's behaviour or attitudes. For the NCDS, behaviour items have been grouped together into a number of 'Syndromes' in accordance with a procedure agreed with Stott in 1965 but not necessarily the same as in the published manual. It is assumed that the general behavioural pattern which underlies these individual items is the same. For a discussion of whether this is so, and a critical examination of the Guides see: Ghodsian, M (1977) 'Children's Behaviour and the BSAG: some theoretical and statistical considerations', *British Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology*, 16.

Total 'Syndrome' scores are meant to give a quantitative assessment of the behaviour pattern in question. The Syndrome totals are added together to give the figure contained in variable N455, which indicates, fairly crudely, the total amount of behavioural deviance (or maladjustment?) as measured by the Guide. Totals of 12 'Syndromes' are used for this purpose (Variables N432 ,N434 ,N436, N438, N440, N442, N444, N446, N448, N450, N452, N454 - Unforthcomingness, Withdrawal, Depression, Anxiety for acceptance by adults, Hostility towards adults, 'Writing off' of adults and adult standards, Anxiety for acceptance by children, Hostility towards children, Restlessness, 'Inconsequential' behaviour, Miscellaneous symptoms, Miscellaneous nervous symptoms). There are sub-groups of some syndromes and which are not included in the total score (N458, N462, N466, N470, N472, N481, N427 - Attendance, Appearance, Miscellaneous, Health factors- 1, Health factors-2, Health factors-3, Size).

### NCDS1 BSAG Variables

Variable	Label
n432	1S BSAG – Unforthcomingness
n434	1S BSAG – Withdrawal
n436	1S BSAG – Depression
n438	1S BSAG – Anxiety
n440	1S BSAG - Hostility towards adults
n442	1S BSAG - Writing off adults & standards
n444	1S BSAG - Anxiety for acceptance by kids
n446	1S BSAG - Hostility towards children
n448	1S BSAG - Restlessness
n450	1S BSAG - Inconsequential behaviour
n452	1S BSAG - Miscellaneous symptoms
n454	1S BSAG - Miscellaneous nervous symptoms
n455	1S BSAG total score all syndromes
n462	1S BSAG - Appearance M:C 1-3
n463	1S BSAG - Appearance M:C 2-3
n464	1S BSAG - Appearance M:C 3-3
n466	1S BSAG - Miscellaneous M:C 1-3
n467	1S BSAG - Miscellaneous M:C 2-3
n468	1S BSAG - Miscellaneous M:C 3-3
n470	1S BSAG - Health factors-1 M:C 1-2
n471	1S BSAG - Health factors-1 M:C 2-2
n472	1S BSAG - Health factors-2 M:C 1-5
n473	1S BSAG - Health factors-2 M:C 2-5
n474	1S BSAG - Health factors-2 M:C 3-5
n475	1S BSAG - Health factors-2 M:C 4-5
n476	1S BSAG - Health factors-2 M:C 5-5
n481	1S BSAG - Health factors-3 M:C 1-3
n482	1S BSAG - Health factors-3 M:C 2-3
n483	1S BSAG - Health factors-3 M:C 3-3

## BSAG in NCDS2

**NB: Based on notes appearing in the NCDS SIR database and reproduced in the NCDS Data Dictionary)**

The Bristol Social Adjustment Guides (BSAG) were designed to describe the child's behaviour in particular settings. The Guides have been completed and scored in accordance with the general instructions in Stott (1965), *The Manual to the Bristol Social Adjustment Guides*, University of London Press, which should be consulted before the data is used. Teachers completed the Guides for study members by underlining 'items of behaviour' they thought described the child's behaviour or attitudes. For the NCDS, behaviour items have been grouped together into a number of 'Syndromes' in accordance with a procedure agreed with Stott in 1965 but not necessarily the same as in the published manual. It is assumed that the general behavioural pattern which underlies these individual items is the same. For a discussion of whether this is so, and a critical examination of the Guides see: Ghodsian, M (1977) 'Children's Behaviour and the BSAG: some theoretical and statistical considerations', *British Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology*, 16.

Total 'Syndrome' scores are meant to give a quantitative assessment of the behaviour pattern in question. The Syndrome totals are added together to give the figure contained in variable N1008, which indicates, fairly crudely, the total amount of behavioural deviance (or maladjustment?) as measured by the Guide (N974, N977, N980, N983, N986, N989, N992, N995, N998, N1001, N1004, N1005, - Unforthcomingness, Withdrawal, Depression, Anxiety for acceptance by adults, Hostility towards adults, 'Writing off' of adults and adult standards, Anxiety for acceptance by children, Hostility towards children, Restlessness, 'Inconsequential' behaviour, Miscellaneous symptoms, Miscellaneous nervous symptoms). There are sub-groups of some additional items which do not purport to reflect syndromes and which are not included in the total score (N1061, N1066, N1071, N1077, N1079, N1088, N1095 - Attendance, Appearance, Miscellaneous, Health factors- 1, Health factors-2, Health factors-3, Size)

### NCDS2 BSAG Variables

Variable	Label	Variable	Label
n974	2S Tot score-BSAG Unforthcoming Syndrome	n1066	2S BSAG- Appearance M:C 1-3
n977	2S Total score-BSAG Withdrawal Syndrome	n1067	2S BSAG- Appearance M:C 2-3
n980	2S Total score-BSAG Depression Syndrome	n1068	2S BSAG- Appearance M:C 3-3
n983	2S T.score-BSAG Anxiety Acceptnce,Adults	n1071	2S BSAG- Miscellaneous M:C 1-3
n986	2S Tot score-BSAG Hostility Towards Adul	n1072	2S BSAG- Miscellaneous M:C 2-3
n989	2S T.score-BSAG 'Writing Off Adults'	n1073	2S BSAG- Miscellaneous M:C 3-3
n992	2S T.score-BSAG Anxiety Acceptnce,Childn	n1077	2S BSAG- Health factors-1 M:C 1-2
n995	2S T.score-BSAG Hostility towards Childn	n1078	2S BSAG- Health factors-1 M:C 2-2
n998	2S Tot score-BSAG Restlessness Syndrome	n1079	2S BSAG- Health factors-2 M:C 1-5
n1001	2S T.score BSAG Inconsequential Behavior	n1080	2S BSAG- Health factors-2 M:C 2-5
n1004	2S Tot score-BSAG Miscellaneous Symptoms	n1081	2S BSAG- Health factors-2 M:C 3-5
n1005	2S T.score BSAG Misc Nervous Symptoms	n1082	2S BSAG- Health factors-2 M:C 4-5
n1008	2S BSAG Total score for all syndromes	n1083	2S BSAG- Health factors-2 M:C 5-5
n1049	2S BSAG-Misc Symptoms Syndrome-MC1:4	n1088	2S BSAG- Health factors-3 M:C 1-5
n1050	2S BSAG-Misc Symptoms Syndrome-MC2:4	n1089	2S BSAG- Health factors-3 M:C 2-5
n1051	2T BSAG-Misc Symptoms Syndrome-MC3:4	n1090	2S BSAG- Health factors-3 M:C 3-5
n1052	2S BSAG-Misc Symptoms Syndrome-MC4:4	n1091	2S BSAG- Health factors-3 M:C 4-5
n1061	2S BSAG- Attendance M:C 1-4	n1092	2S BSAG- Health factors-3 M:C 5-5
n1062	2S BSAG- Attendance M:C 2-4	n1095	2S BSAG- Size M:C 1-2
n1063	2S BSAG- Attendance M:C 3-4	n1096	2S BSAG- Size M:C 2-2
n1064	2S BSAG- Attendance M:C 4-4		