CLEARINGHOUSE
FOR MILITARY FAMILY READINESS

Screening and Assessment Tools for Home Visitors
Rapid Literature Review

Clearinghouse Technical Assistance Team

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PennState

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Executive Summary

This report was developed in response to a request for information on the Adult Adolescent Parenting Inventory (AAPI-2) screening and assessment tool by the Behavioral Programs Branch, Marine and Family Programs. Information on additional screening or assessment tools for use by home visitors to prevent child abuse and neglect was also requested.

This report provides the following elements:
- Highlights from recent publications that analyze the validity or reliability of the AAPI-2;
- Overview of the New Parent Support Program: Continuous Quality Improvement pilot project including recommendations on the four screening and assessment tools evaluated; and
- A list of additional screening and assessment tools.

Note, this rapid review provides a preliminary examination of the research. Thus, given the brief timeline, this report is not intended to serve as a comprehensive review of the literature, and the resources provided are not endorsed by the Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness at Penn State. Rather, the information about the resources is provided to help you make data-driven decisions about next steps.

Utility of the AAPI-2: Recent Publications

The Technical Assistance (TA) team at the Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness at Penn State (Clearinghouse) conducted a brief review of the literature that examined the validity and reliability of the AAPI-2 screening and assessment tool. Based on the brief review of the literature, two recently published journal articles (i.e., Lawson et al., 2017; Yaman & Yuksel, 2019) and one report (i.e., Saathoff-Wells et al., 2020) that focused on the topic of interest were identified. Information on each of these studies is provided in this section. Please note, this list of references is not intended to serve as a comprehensive review of the literature.

- Lawson et al. (2017) examined the construct and predictive validity of the AAPI-2 (Form B). The study collected data from 2,610 low-income parents, of which 99% were female. The results of this study do not support the use of the original five-factor structure that was suggested by the AAPI-2 developers. Further, when the results of the AAPI-2 were used to classify parents by their parenting attitudes, from positive to punitive attitudes, the authors found that parents who had positive

attitudes were least likely to abuse or neglect their children. However, those parents who had the most punitive parenting attitudes were no more likely to abuse or neglect their children than the other three subgroups (i.e., the scores from the AAPI-2 did not predict a parent's likelihood of abusing his or her child). Rather, the results of the study show that the AAPI-2 may be useful in identifying parents who are not likely to abuse their child and could potentially be used to identify parents who can be referred out of intensive services. The authors suggest more research on the AAPI-2, specifically with low-income populations, is needed.

- Yaman and Yuksel (2019) analyzed the validity and reliability of the AAPI-2 and determined if it could be adapted and translated into Turkish. The study collected data from 453 people. The authors note that reliability is "adequate" and conclude that the AAPI-2 is an appropriate measurement tool to determine abusive parenting attitudes. *Important note, this article is written in Turkish and only the summary section with a brief introduction, methods, results, and discussion are translated into English. Interpret with caution.*

- Saathoff-Wells et al. (2020) conducted a quality improvement project with the New Parent Support Programs (NPSP) across four Services (i.e., Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps). As part of the study, home visitors' perspectives on the program measures were evaluated, and a little over half of the home visitors were in favor of using the AAPI-2 in the future. However, the authors recommend sunsetting the use of the AAPI-2 for the NPSP. This recommendation stems from problems identified with the AAPI-2 during the evaluation study. These problems include issues with psychometric reliability, performance, and data management. An overview of the NPSP: Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Pilot Project, including recommendations regarding the use of the Family Needs Screener (FNS), Protective Factors Survey (PFS), Brief Child Abuse Potential Inventory (BCAP), and AAPI-2, is provided in the following section. **This is the most recent report examining the utility of the AAPI-2 that was identified through this rapid literature review.**

Overview of the New Parent Support Program: Continuous Quality Improvement Pilot Project

The NPSP CQI Pilot Project was conducted in two phases. The first phase consisted of updating the NPSP logic model and developing the CQI program evaluation. During the second phase, a pilot study of the program evaluation was developed and implemented across the Services.

In phase one, a two-tiered evaluation plan was suggested. The first tier included four core measures that all Services agreed to use in the pilot program, and the second tier included measures that some Services were interested in implementing. Ultimately, all Services decided not to include the tier two measures in the pilot study as "the general sentiment was that it was important to see how the agreed upon measures performed first before expanding to test additional measures" (Saathoff-Wells et al., 2020, p.7).

The goals of the pilot project were as follows (Saathoff-Wells et al., 2020):

1. Test each measure for its utility in program evaluation and quality improvement and for potential overlap between measures and
2. Gauge the effectiveness of each measure for program planning from a home visitor's perspective (p.4).

Measures Tested in the Pilot Project

The four core measures tested in the pilot project include the FNS, PFS, BCAP, and AAPI-2. More information on each of these measures is provided below.

The six second-tier measures that were not tested in the pilot project include the Home Observation for Measurement of the Environment Inventory (HOME Inventory); Massachusetts Home Safety Checklist; Ages and Stages, 3rd ed.; Nurturing Skills Competency Scale; Coparenting Relationship Scale; and Father Engagement. More information on each of these measures can be found in the *Additional Screening and Assessment Tools* section of this report.

Family Needs Screener (FNS)

The FNS is a 57-item measure that is used by the Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps to assess a client's eligibility for home visitation services. The FNS consists of 13 demographic questions and 46 additional questions across nine subscales: stress, relationship discord, support, substance abuse, violence approval, family of origin violence and neglect, self-esteem, depression, and prior family violence. The Family Support Survey is the shortened version of the FNS. It contains 25 items and is used by the Navy (Saathoff-Wells et al., 2020).

Protective Factors Survey (PFS)

The PFS is a 20-item measure that was developed for use with caregivers who are receiving child-maltreatment prevention services. It is a pre-post measure that collects information in areas of strength and resilience through five domains: family functioning and resiliency, social support, concrete support, nurturing and attachment, and

knowledge of parenting and child development. The results of the PFS are intended to be used for quality improvement purposes and not individual assessments (FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community Based Child Abuse Prevention, 2020; Saathoff-Wells et al., 2020).

Brief Child Abuse Potential Inventory (BCAP)

The BCAP is a 33-item screening tool that was designed for use during reports of child abuse. It is a shortened version of the CAP Inventory and measures parenting styles that are characteristic of physical child abusers. The BCAP consists of three scales: abuse risk, lie, and random response. The three scales assess risk and provide validity information (Ondersma et al., 2005; Saathoff-Wells et al., 2020).

Adult-Adolescent Parenting Index, 2nd edition (AAPI-2)

The AAPI-2 is a 40-item measure that assesses parenting attitudes and behaviors. It is a revised version of the original AAPI that was developed in 1978-80 and is used to quantify an individual's level of agreement with maladaptive parenting behaviors. The AAPI-2 has five scales: appropriate expectations, empathy, corporal punishment, family roles, and power and independence. There are also two forms for the AAPI-2: Form A and Form B (Bavolek & Keene, 2010; Saathoff-Wells et al., 2020).

Recommendations

The six recommendations developed through the pilot project to assist the NPSP's home visitation program in deciding which measures to continue using (i.e., FNS, PFS, BCAP, and AAPI-2) are provided in Table 1 below. For more information on the measures, methods used, or additional details, please review the full NPSP CQI Pilot Project report.

Table 1

Recommendations for Future Use of the FNS, PFS, BCAP, and AAPI-2 with the NPSP

Measure Name	Recommendations
FNS	A comprehensive review of the FNS should be completed with the following aims: • Identify updates that are relevant to better assess child maltreatment risks in today's military families. • Refine the FNS scoring methods and eligibility criteria.
	FNS screeners, more than 2 months old, should be reviewed by the client and home visitor to ensure updated responses are recorded in the Services' respective client management systems so current data are driving services.
	Analyses support using the FNS 57-item version, limitations withstanding.

Measure Name	Recommendations
PFS	The PFS is not recommended as a pretest-posttest or as a standalone measure for program improvement. A set of assessments is required in which at least one of the other measures identifies risk for child maltreatment. However, the PFS is useful for home visitors in building rapport, program planning, and using a strengths-based approach in teaching about protective factors.
BCAP	The BCAP demonstrates change in risk over time and could be a useful assessment tool for NPSP when used in concert with other measures such as the FNS. The validity check procedures can help identify potential clients who might otherwise be misclassified into either low- or high-needs groups. In this sample, the Lie scale also demonstrated potential to highlight social desirability responses in other measures (i.e., the FNS and PFS). Note, if the BCAP is employed, training and support for home visitors and supervisors will be critical, so they can learn how to best use the measure for program planning, discussions with clients, and program improvement.
AAPI-2	Continued or future use of the AAPI-2 is not recommended for the NPSP program. The sunsetting of AAPI-2 involves problems with psychometric reliability, performance, and overall data management.
Source: (Saathoff-Wells et al., 2020, pp. 4-6)	

Additional Screening and Assessment Tools

This section provides information on the second-tier measures that were originally slated to be tested in the NPSP CQI Pilot Project but were not tested due to a consensus that the core measures should be tested first. These second-tier measures include the following:

- HOME Inventory
- Massachusetts Home Safety Checklist
- Ages and Stages, 3rd ed.
- Nurturing Skills Competency Scale
- Coparenting Relationship Scale
- Father Engagement

Table 2 provides the name of each measure and a brief description, the number of items included in the measure (if available), authors of the measure, additional references (if available), and a link to the measure's website (if available).

Table 2

Additional Screening and Assessment Tools (Tier 2 Measures from the NPSP CQI)

Measure Name	Brief Description	Published Reliability (Cronbach's Alpha)	Authors and Additional References
HOME Inventory	The HOME Inventory is designed to measure the quality and quantity of stimulation and support available to a child in the home environment. The focus of this measure is on the child in the environment and the child as a recipient of inputs from objects, events, and transactions occurring in connection with the family surroundings. Number of items: 45-60	The authors note that they no longer report internal consistency estimates for the HOME Inventories as the Inventories "are composed of cause rather than effect indicators and reliability estimates such as the alpha coefficient assume effect indicators"(Bradley et al., 2003, p. 308).	Authors: Caldwell & Bradley (1984) Additional Reference: Bradley et al. (2003)
Massachusetts Home Safety Checklist Website: https://massclearinghouse.ehs.state.ma.us/PROG-INJPREV/IP2915kit.html	This checklist is for parents with children birth to 6 years old. It asks parents safety questions related to the kitchen, bathroom, and child areas. Parents can also use this checklist to assess additional safety measures necessary for their young children. The booklet also provides resources and tips to help parents make safety changes in their home.	Unknown	Author: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Injury Prevention and Control Program

Measure Name	Brief Description	Published Reliability (Cronbach's Alpha)	Authors and Additional References
Ages and Stages Questionnaire, 3rd Ed. (ASQ-3) Website: http://agesandstages.com/products-services/asq3/	The ASQ-3 is a screening tool that pinpoints developmental progress in children between the ages of one month to 5.5 years. Number of items: 30	Test-retest reliability: 0.91 Interrater reliability: 0.92	Authors: Squires & Bricker (2009) Additional Reference: Bocca-Tjeertes et al. (2014)
Nurturing Skills Competency Scale (NSCS) Website: https://assessingparenting.com/assessment/nscs	The NSCS is a criterion-referenced, self-report inventory designed to gather information in two primary domains: family life and parenting competence. It gathers information about individuals and their families to alert family members and professionals about on-going conditions that could lead to child maltreatment.	Test-retest reliability of 0.89 was measured with a population of parents participating in a Healthy Start Parenting program in Hawaii.	Authors: Bavolek & Keene (Family Development Resources, Inc.)
Coparenting Relationship Scale Website: https://www.midss.org/content/coparenting-relationship-scale-crs	The CRS was designed as a self-report measure of the quality of coparenting in a family. There are seven subscales: coparenting agreement, coparenting closeness, exposure of child to conflict, coparenting support, coparenting undermining, endorsement of partner's parenting, and division of labor. Number of items: 35	Internal consistency ranged from 0.91 to 0.94	Authors: Feinberg et al. (2003) Additional Reference: Feinberg et al. (2012)
Father Engagement	The Father Engagement measure assesses fathers' engagement in activities with their children. Number of items: 10-12	Unknown	Author: Cabrera (2011) Additional Reference: Cabrera et al. (2011)

Additional Assistance

The TA specialists at the Clearinghouse provide support to professionals as they examine and make informed decisions about which programs fit specific situations and are worth the investment. Whether connecting one with the resources and tools to conduct a needs assessment in a specific community, suggesting the best evidence-based program or practice for a certain situation, or developing an evaluation plan, the TA team of experts is a call or email away.

Please visit the Clearinghouse's website at www.militaryfamilies.psu.edu or call 1-877-382-9185 to speak with a TA specialist.

Suggested Citation

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