

Child Anxiety

Challenge

For child anxiety, screening for risk, conducting research on group differences, and tracking treatment outcomes requires a way to measure anxiety symptoms. Researchers from University of California, Los Angeles contacted us to help validate an anxiety symptoms questionnaire they had developed using data from child and parent reports.

Approach

Our analysts partnered with one of the researchers to understand the questions and needs of the project as well as the timeline.

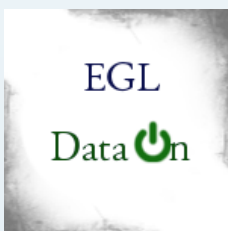
To validate that the questionnaire measured three subdomains of anxiety, we used a confirmatory factor analysis, which can test whether responses to a set of questions are consistent with the three hypothesized domains.

Children and parents may interpret the same questions differently. In order to compare responses, the child and parent scores need to be calibrated. Using a multitrait, multimethod confirmatory factor analysis, systematic response difference due to children or parents can be removed, and the validity and structure of the items compared.

Result

Although there were differences between child and parent reports, once the systematic differences were removed, the hypothesized domains of anxiety symptoms of school, social, and family fit the data well. Partnered with the research team, our analysts were able to rapidly develop and conduct the optimal analyses and assist in the technical writing of a paper for journal publication, appearing in the *Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology*.

Langley, A. K., Falk, A., Peris, T., Wiley, J. F., Kendall, P. C., Ginsburg, G., . . . Piacentini, J. (2013). The Child Anxiety Impact Scale: Examining Parent- and Child-Reported Impairment in Child Anxiety Disorders. *Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology*, 1-13.
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