**Description of Measure**

**Purpose**
To quickly assess for research purposes the personal and social sufficiency of individuals (birth to 18 years of age).

**Conceptual Organization**
The Vineland Screener (VSC) has four age-specific versions for children ages 0 to 2, 3 to 6, 6 to 12, and 12 to 18. Each version consists of 15 items in each of the following 3 domains: Communication, Daily Living Skills, and Socialization. For each item, the interviewer asks several questions to probe the respondent’s perception of the child’s ability level.

**Item Origin/Selection Process**
The Vineland Screener is derived from the Vineland Adaptive Behavioral Scales (VABS) (Sparrow, Balla, & Cicchetti, 1984), which, in turn, is a revision and extension of the Vineland Social Maturity Scale (VSMS) (Doll, 1935). The VSMS was used to assess adaptive levels primarily among developmentally disabled individuals. The VABS expanded the use of the VSMS by norming it on a representative, national sample.

According to the author, forty-five items (from the 261 items comprising the VABS) were selected for inclusion in the Screener. Item selection criteria included ease of administration, reliability, domain coverage, and strength of correlation with the total scales. Although each age-specific version has items unique to its age range, many items are included in more than one of the versions in order to enhance sensitivity to differences in rates of development. The Vineland Screener was developed for research purposes only, in contrast to the VABS, which can be used to make clinical judgments about an individual’s adaptive functioning. (Sparrow, Carter & Cicchetti, 1993 a & b).

**Materials**
Forms and manuals are available from the publisher.

**Time Required**
15-20 minutes

**Administration Method**
Interviewer administered with child’s primary caregiver. A semi-structured interview format is recommended to create a natural atmosphere for communication and enhance rapport. Detailed interview instructions are provided in the manual (Sparrow, Carter, & Cicchetti, 1993b).

**Training**
3-4 hours

**Scoring**

**Score Types**
Score Interpretation
While higher scores generally indicate greater adaptive functioning, raw scores are not directly interpretable and must be converted to derived scores, which have a uniform meaning as they are based on national norms. Standard scores can be grouped into ranges representing high, moderately high, adequate, moderately low, and low levels of adaptive functioning. See the author's manual for more information on the interpretation of derived scores (Sparrow, Carter, & Cicchetti, 1993b).

Norms and/or Comparative Data
Normative data based on the performance of a representative national standardization sample of 3,000 individuals between birth and age 18, are presented in the Vineland Survey Form Manual (Sparrow, Balla, & Cicchetti, 1984).

Psychometric Support
Reliability
Sparrow, Carter, and Cicchetti (1993a) report that inter-rater reliability of lay interviewers using the Vineland Screener has been high ($\alpha = .98$).

Validity
Correlations between the Vineland Screener (6 to 12) and the full Vineland were reported to be: Communications ($r = .95$), Daily Living Skills ($r = .93$), and Socialization ($r = .92$) (Sparrow, Carter, & Cicchetti, 1993a).

LONGSCAN Use
Data Points
Ages 6, 8, 12, 14. LONGSCAN administered the Socialization and Daily Living Skills domains.

Respondent
Primary maternal caregiver

Mnemonic and Version
Age 6: VSCA
Age 8: VSA
Age 12: VSCB
Age 14: VSCC (administration optional, The Northwest Site was the only site to administer)

Rationale
The Vineland Screener was selected for LONGSCAN use for the following reasons: It is based upon a developmental rather than a deficit model and the domain structure permits assessment of specific developmental strengths and weaknesses. The Screener has been normed on a nationally standardized sample matched on relevant demographic variables. The authors report high validity and reliability, and the ability to discriminate inpatient, outpatient, and non-referred samples of children. Finally, the VSC is conversational in tone, and is typically rapport building, an important factor in an otherwise structured and sensitive interview.

Administration and Scoring Notes
LONGSCAN developed a more structured response set based upon the scoring criteria in the full Vineland Survey Form (Sparrow, Balla, & Cicchetti, 1984) to aid in administration and scoring. While all of the
Screener items remained intact, additional probe items were developed for LONGSCAN use to promote standardization across sites and over time. The Communication domain was not administered in the LONGSCAN study because of time constraints and the belief that this domain was being adequately assessed with other instruments (e.g., the WPPSI-R vocabulary subtest). Additionally, LONGSCAN combined the items from two age-specific versions of the form, intended for ages 6-12 and 12-18, in order to increase variability in scores.

Computing standard scores for the Vineland Screener involves use of the Equating Tables (organized by the broad age groupings around which the four screeners were constructed) that are located in the Appendix of the Screener Manual, followed by use of the age-based tables (organized in two month increments) that are found in the Survey Form manual. The tables and the algorithms for computing scores have been programmed at the LONGSCAN Coordinating Center.

**Results**

*Descriptive Statistics*

For descriptive statistics of the age 6-8 Vineland Screener, please refer to the 1st and 2nd volumes of the measures manuals (Hunter et al., 2003). Table 1 provides descriptive statistics for the age 12 Vineland Screener raw and standard scores by sample demographics. Girls were found to have both higher daily living skill (88.1) and socialization (82.2) standard scores than boys (83.6 and 77.1 respectively). The Midwestern site was found to have both higher daily living skill and socialization standard scores than all of the other sites.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics for Age 12 Vineland Screener Raw and Standard Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age 12 Vineland Screener Scores</th>
<th>Adaptive Functioning (Daily Living Skills)</th>
<th>Socialization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall</strong></td>
<td>951 23.4 5.1</td>
<td>949 85.9 19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child’s Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>469 23.1 5.3</td>
<td>468 83.6 19.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>482 23.6 4.8</td>
<td>481 88.1 18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Study Site</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EA</td>
<td>187 23.4 5.1</td>
<td>187 85.9 18.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MW</td>
<td>172 25.2 3.8</td>
<td>171 94.1 18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO</td>
<td>173 23.2 5.6</td>
<td>173 86.4 21.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>229 21.7 5.6</td>
<td>229 80.5 17.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>190 23.9 4.1</td>
<td>189 84.5 16.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes. Based on data received at the Coordinating Center through August ’07.

Descriptive statistics for Age 14 Vineland Screener Scores will not be presented because only one site (Northwest) administered it.

**Publisher Information**

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References


