

# ABCD Human Subject Study

Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development – ABCDSTUDY.org

## Release Notes: Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study<sup>SM</sup> (ABCD Study<sup>®</sup>) Data Release 4.0

### Gender Identity & Sexual Health

<http://dx.doi.org/10.15154/1523041>

**October 2021**

#### Change Log

October 2021 – Data Release 4.0

- Initial release

#### List of Instruments

Name of Instrument	Short Name
ABCD Youth Gender Identity	abcd_ygi01
ABCD Youth GISH2	abcd_gish2y01
ABCD Parent Gender Identity	abcd_pgi01
ABCD Sum Scores Gender Identity Parent	abcd_mhp01
ABCD Sum Scores Gender Identity Youth	abcd_mhy01

#### General Information

The following information refers to the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study<sup>SM</sup> (ABCD) Data Release 4.0 available from <https://nda.nih.gov/abcd>. An overview of the ABCD Study<sup>®</sup> is at <https://abcdstudy.org> and detailed descriptions of elements of the study are listed in <https://abcdstudy.org/scientists/protocols>.

This document describes the contents of various instruments available for download. To understand the context of this information, see *Release Notes ABCD README FIRST* and *Release Notes ABCD Imaging Instruments*.

To access detailed information about the instruments administered in this domain, the constructs they are intended to measure and relevant citations for each measure, please see: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1878929317300683>

## Instrument Descriptions

### **ABCD Youth Gender Identity**

The Youth Gender Survey, introduced at the 1-year follow up, originally consisted of 4 items on a 5-point scale measuring felt-gender, gender contentedness, and gender expression during play. Male and Female versions are administered based on the parents' indication of the child's sex assigned at birth on the demographic survey. Higher scores reflect more congruence with gendered expectations of the participant's sex assigned at birth. Note, felt-gender is assessed using two items, the first congruent with the child's sex assigned at birth, and the second incongruent and each are scaled such that a higher score always indicates more congruence with sex assigned at birth (Potter et al., 2021b and Potter et al., 2021a).

Part way through the 3-year follow-up, items about perceived and self-described appearance were introduced. Responses are on a 7-point scale from "very masculine/feminine" to "very feminine/masculine". Response order is specific to sex assigned at birth such that lower scores indicate more conformity with expectation of the participant's sex assigned at birth. These items should *not* be included in a sum or average score with the first 4 items of the Youth Gender Survey as the response scales differ.

### **ABCD Parent Gender Identity**

The Parent-report Gender Identity Questionnaire (GIQ; adapted from Johnson 2004) was introduced at the 1-year follow up; 12 items are administered with male and female versions based on parent-report of the child's sex. The GIQ measures cross-gender behavior and feelings of gender dysphoria. While a sum score is given for the 12-item measure, we recommend for this community sample using an average of the first 9 behavior items to describe gender expression, and a separate average of the last 3 items measuring gender dysphoria/gender discontentedness (Potter et al., 2021a). Higher scores reflect more conformity with gendered expectations of the participant's sex and less dysphoria/discontentedness. The GIQ has since been removed from the battery to decrease parent burden and is replaced by a more developmentally appropriate parent report of the youth's perceived gender expression.

### **ABCD Youth GISH2**

Youth GISH2 is a survey to measure youth sexual attraction, behavior and peer perceptions. This instrument was introduced in the two-year follow up. In line with the gender-inclusive language changes to all ABCD Study measures (implemented in September 2020), some individual items were modified (Potter et al 2021a).

**Summary Scores** for these measures can be found in the instruments listed below. Prefixes used in summary score variables are listed at the end of each instrument name.

**ABCD Sum Scores Gender Identity Youth**

ABCD Youth Gender Identity (GISH)

**ABCD Sum Scores Gender Identity Parent**

ABCD Parent Gender Identity (GISH)

## References

- Johnson LL, Bradley SJ, Birkenfeld-Adams AS, et al. A parent-report gender identity questionnaire for children. *Arch Sex Behav*. Apr 2004;33(2):105-116.
- Potter A, Dube S, Barrios L., et al. Measurement of Gender and Sexual Behavior in the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development study. *Dev Cogn Neurosci*. 2021a; *in press*.
- Potter A, Dube S, Allgaier N, et al. Early adolescent gender diversity and mental health in the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development study. *J Child Psychol Psychiatry*. Feb 2021b;62(2):171-179.
- Wylie SA, Corliss HL, Boulanger V, Prokop LA, Austin SB. Socially assigned gender nonconformity: A brief measure for use in surveillance and investigation of health disparities. *Sex roles*. 2010;63(3-4):264-276.

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