

# The CAGE Questionnaire

## Assessment Overview

### Assessment Area

**ICF Domain:**

Body Function

**Subcategory:**

Mental Functions

### You Will Need

**Length:**

5 minutes, 4 items

**Scoring:**

4 yes/no questions

Item responses on the CAGE are scored 0 or 1, with a higher score being an indication of alcohol problems. A total score of 2 or greater is considered clinically significant.

### Summary

The CAGE is a 4 item self-report screening questionnaire used to identify those individuals for whom more extensive evaluation of alcohol use is recommended.

It is the oldest and likely most extensively used questionnaire across a variety of clinical and research settings. Originally developed for use with adults, it has been used in elderly populations as well.

Typically, two or more of the questions answered affirmatively are considered to be “CAGE positive”, though some suggest a positive response to a single item warrants more in-depth investigation of consumption.

The four CAGE questions are:

1. Have you ever felt you should cut down on your drinking?
2. Have people annoyed you by criticizing your drinking?
3. Have you ever felt bad or guilty about your drinking?
4. Have you ever had a drink first thing in the morning to steady your nerves or to get rid of a hangover (eye-opener)?

### Availability

**Worksheet:** Can be found [here](#).

**Languages:** English

## Assessment Interpretability

### Minimal Clinically Important Difference

Not established in SCI

### Statistical Error

Not established in SCI

### Typical Values

**Mean (SD) scores:**

Total sample: 0.75 (1.20)

Drinkers: 1.00 (1.29)

(Tate et al. 1993; n=155; 121 males, 34 females; mean age: 34 years; complete and incomplete SCI, paraplegia and tetraplegia, mixed injury types, traumatic SCI)

## Measurement Properties

### Validity – **Low** to **Moderate**

**Moderate** correlation with self-reported alcohol abuse history:

$r = 0.53$

**Moderate** correlation with average number of drinks consumed weekly prior to injury:

$r = 0.38$

**Low** correlation with drug abuse history:

$r = 0.28$

(Tate et al. 1993; n=155; 121 males, 34 females; mean age: 34 years; complete and incomplete SCI, paraplegia and tetraplegia, mixed injury types, traumatic SCI)

**Number of studies reporting validity data: 1**

### Reliability – **Not established**

Not established in SCI

**Number of studies reporting reliability data: 0**

## Responsiveness

**Floor/Ceiling Effect:**

Not established in SCI

**Effect Size:**

Not established in SCI

**Number of studies reporting**

**responsiveness data: 0**