

# Measuring Health and Disability

Manual for WHO Disability Assessment Schedule

## **WHODAS 2.0**

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**World Health  
Organization**

## WHO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Measuring Health and Disability: Manual for WHO Disability Assessment Schedule (WHODAS 2.0) / edited by TB Üstün, N Kostanjsek, S Chatterji, J Rehm.

1.Disability evaluation. 2.Health status. 3.Human development. 4.Classification. 5.Manuals. I.World Health Organization.

ISBN 978 92 4 154759 8 (NLM classification: W 15)

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Printed in Malta

Technical editing: Hilary Cadman, Biotext, Canberra, Australia

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# Preface

The World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule (WHODAS 2.0) is a generic assessment instrument developed by WHO to provide a standardized method for measuring health and disability across cultures. It was developed from a comprehensive set of International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) items that are sufficiently reliable and sensitive to measure the difference made by a given intervention. This is achieved by assessing the same individual before and after the intervention. A series of systematic field studies was used to determine the schedule's cross-cultural applicability, reliability and validity, as well as its utility in health services research. WHODAS 2.0 was found to be useful for assessing health and disability levels in the general population through surveys and for measuring the clinical effectiveness and productivity gains from interventions.

This manual summarizes the methodology used to develop WHODAS 2.0 and the findings obtained when the schedule was applied to certain areas of general health, including mental and neurological disorders. The manual will be useful to any researcher or clinician wishing to use WHODAS 2.0 in their practice. It includes the seven versions of WHODAS 2.0, which differ in length and intended mode of administration. It also provides general population norms; these allow WHODAS 2.0 values for certain subpopulations to be compared with those for the general population.

The manual is aimed at public health professionals, doctors, other health professionals (e.g. rehabilitation professionals, physical therapists and occupational therapists), health-policy planners, social scientists and other individuals involved in studies on disability and health. It may be of particular interest to general health workers, but also to psychiatrists, psychologists, neurologists and addiction health workers, because it places mental health and addiction problems on an equal basis with other areas of general health.

The development of WHODAS 2.0 would not have been possible without the extensive support of many people from different parts of the world, who devoted a great deal of time and energy to the project, and organized resources within an international network. Here, we acknowledge the leading centres, organizations and individuals, and would like to also thank the many other individuals who assisted in different aspects of this large project, which spanned more than 10 years. Further information on the project team is available on the WHODAS 2.0 web site.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.who.int/whodas>

## **WHO/National Institutes for Health Joint Project on Assessment and Classification of Disability**

The main people involved in the WHO/National Institutes of Health (NIH) Joint Project on Assessment and Classification of Disability, listed by institution, were as follows: Darrel Regier, Cille Kennedy, Grayson Norquist and Kathy Magruder (National Institute of Mental Health, NIMH); Robert Battjes and Bob Fletcher (National Institute on Drug Abuse, NIDA); and Bridget Grant (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, NIAAA).

In addition to the editors, several WHO staff and consultants were part of the WHO/NIH Joint Project; notably, Shekhar Saxena and Joanne Epping-Jordan played key roles. Moreover, we gratefully acknowledge the editorial assistance received from Jayne Lux, Cille Kennedy, Sarah Perini, Rueya Kocalevent and Dan Chisholm, as well as statistical assistance from Ulrich Frick and Luis Prieto.

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**Editors**

# Abbreviations and acronyms

BAI	Barthel's Index of Activities of Daily Living
CAR	cross-cultural applicability research
CIDI	composite international diagnostic interview
FIM	functional independence measure
GP	general practitioner
ICC	intra-class correlation coefficient
ICF	International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health
ICF-CY	International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health Children and Youth version
ICIDH	International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities, and Handicaps
LHS	London Handicap Scale
PCM	partial credit model
SCAN	Schedules for Clinical Assessment in Neuropsychiatry
SF-12	Medical Outcomes Study 12-Item Short-Form Health Survey
SF-36	Medical Outcomes Study 36-Item Short-Form Health Survey
WHO	World Health Organization
WHODAS 2.0	WHO Disability Assessment Schedule
WHOQOL	WHO Quality of Life
WHOQOL-BREF	WHO Quality of Life Brief Scale
WHS	World Health Survey
WMHS	World Mental Health Survey

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