

FACES III
Fact Sheet for Affiliate Users
April 15, 2003

What is FACES III? FACES III has been selected as the family assessment model to be used for families receiving post-permanency services. FACES III, developed in the Family Social Science Department at the University of Minnesota, is designed to measure Family Cohesion (degree to which family members are separated from or connected to their family); Family Adaptability (extent to which the family system is flexible and able to change); and Family Type/Functioning (extreme, mid-range, moderately balanced, balanced).

How reliable and valid is FACES III? A variety of reliability and validity studies have been completed in order to increase the scientific rigor of the model scales. FACES III has internal/consistency that are fairly high ($r=.68$) as well as high test-retest reliability ($r=.80$). As for validity, there is very low correlation between scales ($r=.03$). Over 500 research projects have utilized the FACES surveys.

How is FACES III administered to families? FACES III is designed to be completed by most family members. The scale items were designed to be readable and understandable to adolescents down to age twelve; however, FACES III can be administered to all family members who can complete the survey, regardless of age. The instrument consists of 20 statements, and is easy to administer and score. The family member is asked to read each statement and decide on a scale from 1 (almost never) to 5 (almost always) how often the statement occurs.

How are cohesion, adaptability and family type/functioning scores computed? To compute cohesion, the scores of the ten odd-numbered statements are added together; adaptability is computed by adding the scores of the 10 even-numbered questions. Both total scores are placed in the corresponding box on the **FACES III Linear Scoring and Interpretation** sheet. Family type/functioning is computed by adding the cohesion and adaptability score and dividing by two.

What data will be submitted to the Prime Contractor? The Prime Contractor would like affiliates to submit the initial cohesion, adaptability, and type/functioning scores with the assessment, as well as follow-up scores from re-application of the inventory.

**FACES III Update:
Linear Scoring and Interpretation**
David H. Olson and July Watson Tiesel
April 1991

Administering and Scoring Procedure

The instrument is easy to administer and simple to score. It can be administered on an individual basis, such as when a couple or a family is seen in a therapy session or when couples/families participate in research projects. It can also be used in larger groups, such as students in class, or families responding in a mailed survey.

The respondent is asked to read the statements and decide for each one how frequently, on a scale that ranges from 1 (almost never) to 5 (almost always), the described behavior occurs in his/her family.

Overview of Scoring

The following FACES III Linear Scoring page illustrates the linear nature of FACES III scores and their correspondence to Family Types. Because empirical data suggests that FACES III does not capture the extremely high categories of "enmeshed" and "chaotic" families, high scores on the adaptability and cohesion dimensions are **reinterpreted** as "very connected" and "very flexible."

The cutting points for the four levels of cohesion and adaptability remain the same, except that categories of enmeshed and chaotic are no longer measured. Instead, "Very Connected" and "Very Flexible" are more appropriate concepts for scores in that range.

Directions for Obtaining Circumplex Type Score

1. Compute the sum score for **Cohesion** (add the 10 odd items) and **Adaptability** (add the 10 even items) and locate the corresponding 1 – 8 score for each dimension to use in data analysis.
2. To obtain the **Family Type** score (1-8) add the 1 – 8 Cohesion and Adaptability scores and divide by 2. The interpretation of the 1 – 8 Type score is indicated in the Table.

Data Analysis with Linear Scores

Using this linear scoring and interpretation of FACES III scores, correlation and regression analysis can be done using cohesion and adaptability scores separately or combined using the Family Type score.

FACES III – Family Version
David H. Olson, Joyce Portner, and Yoav Lavee

1	2	3	4	5
ALMOST NEVER	ONCE IN A WHILE	SOMETIMES	FREQUENTLY	ALMOST ALWAYS

DESCRIBE YOUR FAMILY NOW:

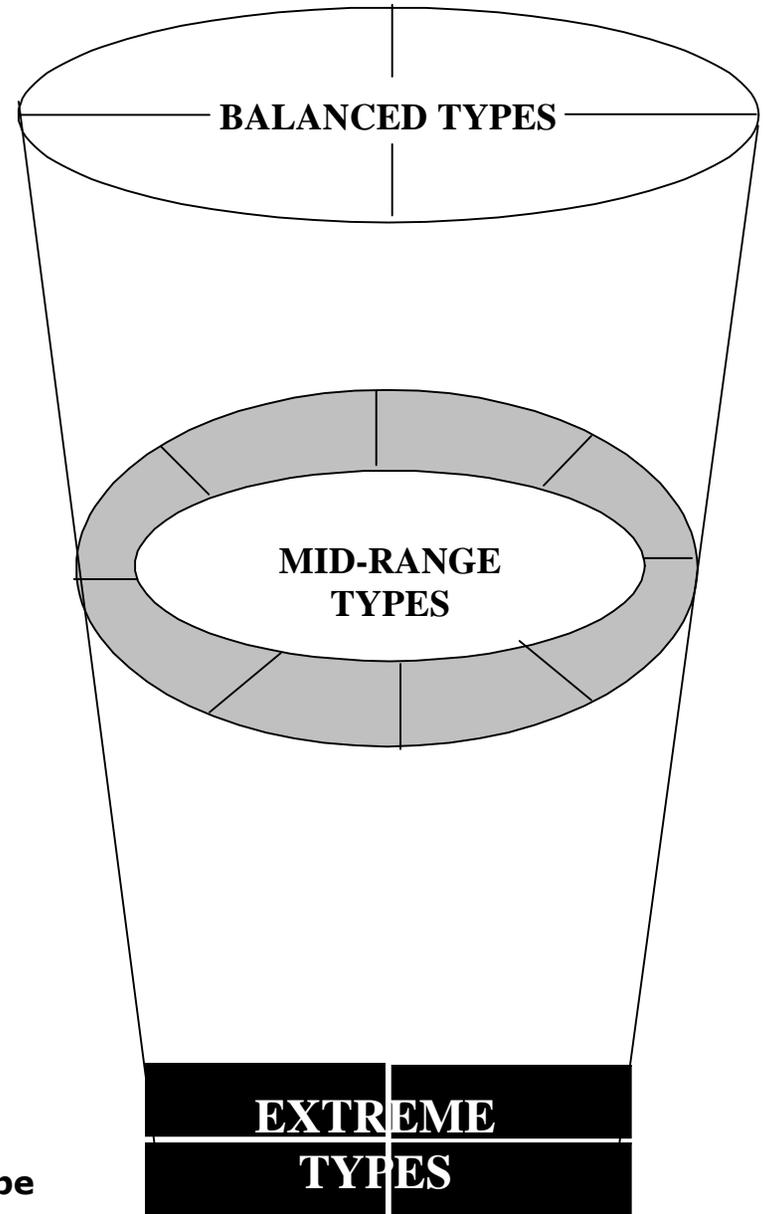
- _____ 1. Family members ask each other for help.
- _____ 2. In solving problems, the children’s suggestions are followed.
- _____ 3. We approve of each other’s friends.
- _____ 4. Children have a say in their discipline.
- _____ 5. We like to do things with just our immediate family.
- _____ 6. Different persons act as leaders in our family.
- _____ 7. Family members feel closer to other family members than to people outside the family.
- _____ 8. Our family changes its way of handling tasks.
- _____ 9. Family members like to spend free time with each other.
- _____ 10. Parent(s) and children discuss punishment together.
- _____ 11. Family members feel very close to each other.
- _____ 12. The children make the decisions in our family.
- _____ 13. When our family gets together for activities, everybody is present.
- _____ 14. Rules change in our family.
- _____ 15. We can easily think of things to do together as a family.
- _____ 16. We shift household responsibilities from person to person.
- _____ 17. Family members consult other family members on their decisions.
- _____ 18. It is hard to identify the leader(s) in our family.
- _____ 19. Family togetherness is very important.
- _____ 20. It is hard to tell who does which household chores.



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FACES III: Linear Scoring & Interpretation

Cohesion			Adaptability			Family Type	
8	50	Very Connected	8	50	Very Flexible	8	Balanced
	48			41			
7	47	Connected	7	40	Flexible	7	Moderately Balanced
	46			30			
6	45	Connected	6	29	Flexible	6	Mid-Range
	43			27			
5	42	Separated	5	26	Structured	5	Extreme
	41			25			
4	40	Disengaged	4	24	Rigid	4	
	38			23			
3	37	Disengaged	3	22	Rigid	3	
	35			20			
2	34	Disengaged	2	19	Rigid	2	
	25			15			
1	24	Disengaged	1	14	Rigid	1	
	10			10			



_____ Cohesion + _____ Adaptability _____ / 2 = Type