

# The Evaluation of Potential Ethnic Differences on the Behavior Assessment System for Children Second Edition: Parent Rating Scales (BASC-2:PRS)

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**Objective**  
The purpose of this study was to investigate ethnic differences in how parents rated their child on the Behavior Assessment System for Children-Second Edition (BASC-2). Data consisted of 531 parent reports of children from one of four ethnic backgrounds: White, Asian/Pacific Islander, African American, and Hispanic.

**Method**  
Data were collected from a mixed clinical sample of neuropsychological case studies conducted by trainees in the KIDS, Inc. Post-Graduate School Neuropsychology Training Program. The sample consisted of 531 participants between the ages of 6 and 18. The independent variable was comprised of the child’s ethnicity, while the dependent variables were comprised of the BASC-2 composites and the subscales. A one-way ANOVA was conducted to examine significant ethnic differences among parent raters on the BASC-2. Post-hoc analyses for ethnicity were run on composites that were significant at the .05 level.

BASC-2 Composites and subscales	F (3,530)	Mean, SD			
		White (N=370)	Asian/Pacific Islander (N=56)	African American (N=60)	Hispanic (N=45)
Externalizing	1.177, NS	58, 8.0	57, 5.8	57, 7.3	59, 6.4
Hyperactivity	.472, NS	58, 9.3	58, 6.7	58, 8.8	60, 8.2
Aggression	2.281, NS	56, 7.9	54, 6.1	55, 9.9	58, 9.0
Conduct Problems	1.121, NS	56, 9.9	57, 7.2	54, 10.2	57, 6.8
Internalizing	.298, NS	58, 8.9	57, 7.4	57, 8.6	59, 5.9
Anxiety	.654, NS	57, 9.0	56, 6.7	57, 10.1	58, 6.2
Depression	.913, NS	60, 8.7	58, 5.7	58, 9.2	60, 6.4
Somatization	1.271, NS	52, 8.3	54, 10.3	51, 10.1	53, 5.7

**Results**  
Among the four composites, there were no significant differences in how parents rated their child on the BASC-2. Within the subscales, *Activities of Daily Living* was significant (p =.034); post-hoc analyses showed that parents rated children among the Asian/Pacific Islander and African American groups differently (p =.035).

BASC-2 Composites and subscales	F (3,530)	Mean, SD			
		White (N=370)	Asian/Pacific Islander (N=56)	African American (N=60)	Hispanic (N=45)
Behavior Symptom Index	1.358, NS	63, 9.1	60, 7.0	62, 7.4	62, 6.5
Attention Problems	.284, NS	60, 9.2	57, 4.3	60, 7.7	59, 8.6
Atypicality	.895, NS	60, 9.4	60, 7.5	61, 8.8	62, 11.0
Withdrawal	1.063, NS	60, 8.5	58, 5.4	59, 11.7	60, 5.8
Adaptive Skills	1.736, NS	39, 6.5	40, 5.8	39, 5.0	39, 3.7
Adaptability	2.309, NS	40, 6.4	42, 5.2	42, 6.9	41, 4.6
Social Skills	1.402, NS	43, 6.0	44, 6.5	43, 6.0	42, 4.2
Leadership	.142, NS	41, 5.3	40, 4.2	42, 4.6	41, 4.2
*Activities of Daily Living	2.915, *.034	38, 7.4	39, 6.5	36, 7.7	39, 4.4
Functional Communication	.154, NS	41, 6.5	41, 5.4	41, 5.9	41, 4.0

\*Note: p<.05

**Conclusions**

- Overall, parents rated their child from different ethnic backgrounds similarly on various social-emotional behaviors.
- On the *Activities of Daily Living* subscale, parents rated children among the Asian/Pacific Islander and African American ethnic group significantly different; this may be due to cultural differences in how individuals from these ethnic groups perform daily living activities and the skills associated with accomplishing these basic tasks.