

## **H-S "EAST"**

### **The Hwalek-Sengstock Elder Abuse Screening Test \***

The Hwalek-Sengstock Elder Abuse Screening Test (H-S "EAST") is a short (15 item) questionnaire for use in health and social service agencies to screen for persons who may be at risk for abuse. It was developed at the request of agencies, which felt that a short test such as this would be useful to them in identifying abused or neglected elders or persons at risk. The EAST is listed below. Also see NOTE following the EAST.

1. Do you have anyone who spends time with you, taking you shopping or to the doctor? [no]
2. Are you helping to support someone? [yes]
3. Are you sad or lonely often? [yes]
4. Who makes decisions about your life -- like how you should live or where you should live? [someone else]
5. Do you feel uncomfortable with anyone in your family? [yes]
6. Can you take your own medication and get around by yourself? [no]
7. Do you feel that nobody wants you around? [yes]
8. Does anyone in your family drink a lot? [yes]
9. Does someone in your family make you stay in bed or tell you you're sick when you know you're not? [yes]
10. Has anyone forced you to do things you didn't want to do? [yes]
11. Has anyone taken things that belong to you without your O.K.? [yes]
12. Do you trust most of the people in your family? [no]
13. Does anyone tell you that you give them too much trouble? [yes]
14. Do you have enough privacy at home? [no]
15. Has anyone close to you tried to hurt you or harm you recently? [yes]

\* The response associated with "abuse" has been indicated in brackets at the end of each item. "Abuse" is associated with a response of "no" to items 1, 6, 12, and 14; a response of "someone else" to item 4; and a response of "yes" to all others.

Note: The EAST is still in its developmental stages and has not been completely tested. Further tests of its validity and reliability are under way. Consequently, its effectiveness, and limitations for its use are still not completely known. Hence the authors recommend using it only in conjunction with their direct supervision. Professionals who wish to use the EAST are urged to work with the authors of the measure, not only to insure that the measure is being used appropriately, but also to provide further opportunities to test the EAST. Interested parties can contact the publisher for further information: Melanie Hwalek, SPEC Associates, Ford Building, 615 Griswold, Suite 1505, Detroit, MI 48226; or call 313-964-0500 or email: [mhwalek@specassociates.org](mailto:mhwalek@specassociates.org).

See also: Neale, AV, M Hwalek, MC Sengstock, RO Scott, & C Stahl. "Validation of the Hwalek-Sengstock Elder Abuse Screening Test." *Journal of Applied Gerontology*, 10 (4): 417-429 (1991).