

**THE AFRICAN AMERICAN
ADOLESCENT RESPECT SCALE
(AAARS)**

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Respect has been an essential part of African and African American culture. The African American Adolescent Respect Scale has been developed to assess youths' attitudes toward respect. * The original study looked at the relationship of respect and the use of violence among young African American males.

The AAARS instrument was developed using four groups of items that dealt with 'prosocial' attitudes towards respect. The four areas included:

- **Family**
- **Peer Group**
- **Society (part 1) Institutions**
- **Society (part 2) Culture**

Family

The items developed to address the family sphere of influence looks at the issue of esteem as it relates to membership within the family.

Peer Group

These set of items reflect how a youth might assert a need to demand respect inclusive of the use of aggression or intimidation. The Peer Respect scale items are reverse scored to reflect the lack of perceived respect resulting in readiness to act aggressively towards peers in an effort to control their potential disrespectful behavior.

Societal (part 1)

This domain measures the degree to which the adolescent felt respected when integrating with institutions such as businesses and public and private agencies or organizations.

Societal (part 2)

This domain measures the degree to which the adolescent felt respected as an African American within the general culture.

* (For more information on this study see [Research on Social Work Practice Vol. 15 No. 6 November 2005](#))

Part C.: AARS Scale for Male Adolescents (IY) continued

Directions: Here is a set of statements that tell what a person thinks about respect. Read each statement and decide whether or not it describes what you think about respect. Please do not circle more than one answer per question. Remember: There are no right or wrong answers.

0=strongly disagree
agree

1=disagree

2=agree

3=strongly

Item #

15.	If someone curses at a member of my family I might hurt them.	0	1	2	3
16.	I have a good chance of getting good jobs that I qualify for.	0	1	2	3
17.	My family admires and appreciates me.	0	1	2	3
18.	Someone can offend me by the way they look at me.	0	1	2	3
19.	You can get respect if you are in a gang.	0	1	2	3
20.	When I am in a bank or other places of business people are helpful and pleasant towards me.	0	1	2	3

African American Respect Scale – Male Adolescent Version

Variable

1. I admire my family
 - 2. People treat me well because they are afraid of me***
 - 3. It is difficult to get appreciation as a black man***
 4. The police trust and appreciate me
 5. I listen and appreciate the guidance my parents give me
 - 6. No one will respect you unless you demand it***
 7. African Americans are highly regarded in America
 8. I am valued and appreciated by my teachers
 9. I am proud of my family's achievements
 - 10. A girl appreciates a young man that takes control***
 - 11. People will admire me if I have expensive things***
 12. Sales people are happy to assist me in department stores
 13. My father is a good role model
 - 14. I may hurt someone if they try to embarrass me in front of people***
 - 15. If someone curses at a member of my family I might hurt them***
 16. I have a good chance of getting good jobs that I qualify for
 17. My family admires and appreciates me
 - 18. Someone can offend me by the way they look at me***
 - 19. You can get respect if you are in a gang***
 20. When I am in a bank or other places of business people are helpful and pleasant towards me
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SCORING

Responses range from 0 = “strongly disagree” to 3 = “Strongly agree.” Possible scores therefore range from 0 to 60.

The 20 item AAARS includes 9 reverse scored items (where agree represents an anti-social attitude or belief about respect). They are highlighted above with an asterisk.

2, 3, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19,

This instrument was used in a study about the use of violence among African American male youth where the results of a linear regression analysis confirmed the prediction that the more prosocial the attitudes toward respect of the African American male youth in this sample of 200, the less use of violence they reported.