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[Diane T. Woodrum, EdD, NCSP](#)

Posted 06-15-2015 10:05

Has anyone noticed when using the WISC V that often the FSIQ is less than any of the other 5 cluster scores? I have looked in the interpretative manual and administration but do not seem to be able to locate any reasonable answer.

Diane Woodrum NCSP
Independent Practitioner/Chair Education Dept
Fremouw Sigley Psychological Associates
Waynesburg PA



2. RE: WISC V



[LEONARD N. HUBER](#)

Posted 06-15-2015 15:20

If all five indices are below the mean and clustered pretty close together, then it would be expected that the FSIQ would be below all of them.

Remember, the FSIQ is not an average of the indices. I imagine that the test developers worked hard to create an FSIQ that behaved correctly from a statistical sense, and this would be one of the ways. If you have used other multi-domain intelligence tests, I think you should have run across this before. On any test, if the composite scores/index scores are clustered in this way, they should produce an overall score that's lower than all of them. This effect is accentuated the further the index scores are from the mean.

I hope someone can link us to an article that explains this in more detail.

LEONARD HUBER
School Psychologist
GREENFIELD (MA) PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GREENFIELD MA



3. RE: WISC V



[Dr. Kevin S. McGrew](#)

Posted 06-16-2015 09:49

I've written about this issue numerous times over the past 15 years. You can find more information, including links to supporting materials, at IQ's Corner

<http://www.iqscorner.com/2015/03/why-does-wj-iv-gia-score-often-appear.html>

Kevin McGrew
Director
Institute for Applied Psychometrics
Saint Joseph MN



4. RE: WISC V



[Diane T. Woodrum, EdD, NCSP](#)

Posted 06-16-2015 10:39

I have seen this many times before but it appears to be more pronounced on the WISC V. I am looking for any article, etc., that will explain this so should this have to be discussed in court, it would be fairly simple to do. The manuals do not discuss this at all. Thanks for your help, it verifies what I thought, but still would love to find something that I could use to explain this so parents, etc. could understand.

Diane Woodrum NCSP
Independent Practioner/Chair Education Dept
Fremouw Sigley Psychological Associates
Waynesburg PA



5. RE: WISC V



[Dr. John M. Garruto](#)

Posted 06-17-2015 09:38

Dr. McGrew's comments are helpful as always. I think the reason it's not in the manual is because it's common-you see this on most tests. But here's the other issue-you cannot use the five cluster scores and compare to the FSIQ easily because only the first 7 subtests go into the IQ. This happened on one of my evaluations too-it turned out the other three subtests that went into the cluster scores but did not go into the IQ were actually higher, thereby bringing up the VSI, WMI, and PSI. This is not new-anyone who ever administered the WISC-III knows this also. Digit span went into the freedom from distractability index and symbol search went into the processing speed index, but neither of those went into the FSIQ. When I do opt to choose the WISC-V, I always give, minimally, the 10 subtests for the five index scores for more information-we must be careful about interpreting skills from only one subtest.

John

John Garruto NCSP
School Psychologist
Oswego City School District
Oswego NY



6. RE: WISC V



[David A Kilpatrick, PhD](#)

Posted 06-18-2015 07:28

I fortunately had this phenomenon explained to me back in the 1980s when I was a third-year graduate assistant responsible for rechecking the scoring of the first and second year graduate students who were working in our university's psychoeducational clinic. I say "fortunately" because this issue has come up many times over the years in my school-based practice. I have even included a footnote in my reports when it occurs, so parents and teachers do not get confused. While Kevin McGrew provided a link that will give you a more technical approach to explaining this, I'll give you the simpler explanation that I've used with parents, teachers, and the undergraduate students in my courses.

This phenomenon is based upon the regression to the mean. Let's say a student has a low score such as 75 or lower in one area. Based upon the regression to the mean, it is statistically more probable that the next area score for this student that we look at is higher than that because 75 is not a common score (5th percentile). A student with two very low scores represents a less common situation than a student with only one low score. Because it is rare to have multiple very low (or very high) scores, the Full Scale score is a reflection of the overall rarity of having multiple extreme scores. That's why on the WISC-IV, for example, you could have a 71 VCIQ, 67 PRIQ, 70 WMIQ and 66 PSIQ and end up with a 63 FSIQ (just an example - I didn't look in the manual and am not using a real student). That 63 reflects an estimate of how often in the population we will find a student with that many low scores. As others mentioned, the Full Scale (or equivalent) is not a mathematical average of the area scores.

David Kilpatrick
Assistant Professor of Psychology
State University of New York, College at Cortland
Cortland NY



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