Family Engagement Measures Glossary

Consistency- Answers to a set of questions are consistent if they do not contain any logical contradictions.

Construct Validity- The rationale for identifying and/or measuring a defined concept (e.g., depression, parent involvement)

Convergent Validity- How closely one scale is related to other variables and other measures of the same construct. The underlying idea is that measures of the same construct should be highly correlated and they should not highly correlate with dissimilar, unrelated ones.

Concurrent validity- A measure of how well a particular test correlates with a previously validated measure. Concurrent validity estimates individual performance on different tests at approximately the same time.

Correlation- The degree to which two variables are associated with one another. Variables are positively correlated if they both tend to increase at the same time. For example, height and weight are positively correlated because as height increases weight also tends to increase. Variables are negatively correlated if as one increases the other decreases. For example, number of police officers in a community and crime rates are negatively correlated because as the number of police officers increases the crime rate tends to decrease.

Internal Validity- The extent to which there is evidence that a construct is associated with changes in the outcomes. Researchers must rule out other potential explanations for the changes in the outcome variable.

Internal Consistency- The extent to which items within an instrument measure different aspects of the same characteristic or construct.

Predictive Validity-The extent to which test or measure is correlated with a future construct or developmental measure. For example, the predictive validity of an assessment administered to children during the fall of the kindergarten year might be evaluated by correlating children's scores on this assessment with their scores on a standardized test administered in third grade. In general, the higher the correlation, the stronger the predictive validity of the test.

Reliability- The degree to which a measurement tool produces stable and consistent results. A reliable measure will provide the same result for the same person, across similar groups, no matter who uses the measure to collect the data. A reliable measure will give relatively the same result on different occasions, assuming that what is being measured has not changed.

Statistical Significance- The probability that findings are not by chance, but represent an authentic relationship among variables. A commonly used significance level is .05, which indicates 95% confidence that the finding is not due to chance.

Test-Retest Reliability- The degree to which a measure produces relatively the same score over multiple retests.

Validity- The degree to which data and results are accurate reflections of reality. Validity refers to the concepts that are investigated, the people or objects that are studied; the methods by which data are collected; and the findings that are produced.