

Description of Scoring for the Ferrans and Powers Quality of Life Index (QLI)

NOTE: This is a description of the steps for calculating the five scores of the Quality of Life Index: total scale, health and functioning subscale, social and economic subscale, psychological/spiritual subscale, and family subscale. To calculate the scores, we recommend using the computer syntax for SPSS-PC, which is included in this web site.

STEPS	DESCRIPTION
<u>OVERALL QLI SCORE (overall quality of life)</u>	
1. Recode satisfaction scores	To center the scale on zero, subtract 3.5 from satisfaction response for each item. (This will produce responses of -2.5, -1.5, -.5, +.5, +1.5, +2.5.)
2. Weight satisfaction responses with the paired importance responses.	Multiply the recoded satisfaction response by the raw importance response for each pair of satisfaction and importance items.
3. Obtain preliminary sum for the overall (total) score.	Add together the weighted responses obtained in step 2 for all of the items.
4. Obtain final overall (total) QLI score.	To prevent bias due to missing data, divide each sum obtained in step 3 by the number of items answered by that individual. (At this point the possible range for scores is -15 to +15.) Next, to eliminate negative numbers for the final score, add 15 to every score. This will produce the final overall (total) QLI score. (Possible range for the final scores = 0 to 30).

SUBSCALE SCORES

The same steps are used to calculate subscale scores as total scores. The only difference is that the calculations are performed using subsets of items, rather than on all of the items.

1. Recode satisfaction scores	To center the scale on zero, subtract 3.5 from the satisfaction response for each item. (This will produce responses of -2.5, -1.5, -.5, +.5, +1.5, +2.5.) <i>This is exactly the same step as #1 above.</i>
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2. Weight satisfaction responses with the paired importance responses. Multiply the recoded satisfaction response by the raw importance for each pair of satisfaction and importance items. *This is exactly the same step as # 2 above.*
 3. Obtain preliminary sum for the subscale score. Add together the weighted responses obtained in step 2 for the items that compose the subscale.
 4. Obtain final subscale score. To prevent bias due to missing data, divide each sum obtained in step 3 by the number of items answered in that subscale for that individual. (At this point the possible range for score is -15 to +15. *This is the possible range for all four of the subscales and for the overall (total) score. The possible range is the same for all five scores even though they have different numbers of items, because we have divided the preliminary sum by the number of items answered for each one.*) Next, to eliminate negative numbers for the final score, add 15 to every score. *It is always the number 15 that is added, regardless of which subscale score is being calculated.* This will produce the final subscale score. (Possible range for the final scores = 0 to 30.) *The possible range for the final scores is the same for all four subscales and for the overall (total) score.*
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