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A Floor effects on the WISC-IV and WAIS-III

Objective

Recent evidence has suggested that the WISC-III and to a much lesser extent the WAIS-III are subject to a floor effect due to a scaled score of one being given to very low raw scores. The purpose of this study was to ascertain if the same result would be found for the WISC-IV.

Method

The WISC-IV (UK) and the WAIS-III (UK) was given to seventeen 16-year-olds in special education.

Results

The distribution of scale scores in the WAIS-III was approximately normal with very few scale scores of one. The WISC-IV had a skewed distribution of scale scores with more scale scores of one.

Conclusions

There is a significant floor effect on the WISC-IV and to a much lesser extent on the WAIS-III. It seems credible to correct for the floor effect on the WAIS-III.