

Brief description:

The WHOQOL-BREF assesses quality of life in clinical and research settings. This instrument comprises 26 items, which measure the following broad domains: physical health, psychological health, social relationships, and environment. Items are scored using a 5-point scale (1-5). Note that some items are reversed scored.

Notes:

- Where more than 20% of data are missing from an assessment, the assessment should be discarded (see Step 4 in Table 3). Where an item is missing, the mean of other items in the domain is substituted. Where more than two items are missing from the domain, the domain score should not be calculated (except for domain 3, where the domain should only be calculated if ≤ 1 item is missing).
- Items 3, 4 and 26 are negatively phrased questions; value codes already incorporate transformation to a positive question.
- This scoring manual is intended to be used only with the questionnaire version on braincode.ca.

Construct	Type of measure	Scoring	Variables from Data Dictionary
Domain 1 Physical health	Continuous	Mean score multiplied by four*. At least five items must be endorsed for the domain score to be calculated.	4 * mean(who_qol_003 + who_qol_004 + who_qol_010 + who_qol_015 + who_qol_016 + who_qol_017 + who_qol_018)
Domain 2 Psychological	Continuous	Mean score multiplied by four*. At least four items must be endorsed for the domain score to be calculated.	4 * mean(who_qol_005 + who_qol_006 + who_qol_007 + who_qol_011 + who_qol_019 + who_qol_026)
Domain 3 Social relationships	Continuous	Mean score multiplied by four*. At least two items must be endorsed for the domain score to be calculated.	4 * mean(who_qol_020 + who_qol_021 + who_qol_022)
Domain 4 Environment	Continuous	Mean score multiplied by four*. At least six items must be endorsed for the domain score to be calculated.	4 * mean(who_qol_008 + who_qol_009 + who_qol_012 + who_qol_013 + who_qol_014 + who_qol_023 + who_qol_024 + who_qol_025)

* All scores are multiplied by 4 to be directly comparable with scores derived from the WHOQOL-100.

Reference:

1. Development of the World Health Organization WHOQOL-BREF quality of life assessment. The WHOQOL Group. Psychol Med. 1998; 28(3): 551-8.