

The Resilience, Adaptation and Well-Being Project



Family Celebration Index

FCELEBI

FCELEBI:

Family Celebrations Index

Overview

The Family Celebrations Index (FCELEBI), developed by Hamilton McCubbin and Anne Thompson (1986a), is designed to assess the scope and depth of celebrations in families; activities which give meaning and value to family life. Celebrations are those special events (i.e., birthdays, Mother's Day, graduations, promotions, etc.) which are marked by the family in a particular way.

Development of FCELEBI

The concept of Celebrations as an important family resource and strength is clearly emphasized in the literature (H.I. McCubbin, A.I. Thompson, Pimer, & M.A. McCubbin, 1988; Wollin & Bennett, 1984). Family behaviors and practices which they choose actively or passively to adopt play an important role in punctuating and highlighting important events which affirm the family's sense of unity and bonding. Family Celebrations include those behaviors and practices, such as a spouse's birthday, special holidays, and events which the family chooses to affirm and acknowledge. The Family Celebrations Index was designed to record what each family identifies and celebrates.

Conceptual Organization

The Family Celebrations Index, a 9-item scale, is designed to measure the degree to which (Never, Seldom, Often, Always) the family practices each of the types of celebrations listed (i.e., child's birthday, religious occasions, Valentine's Day, etc.). The index measures the degree to which the family is involved in the family process of celebrating special, traditional, transitional and situational events.

In contrast with family traditions, family celebrations do vary considerably ($F=1.37$, $p=.005$) across stages of the family life cycle. Family celebrations include the family practices of accentuating children's birthdays, religious occasions, spouse's birthdays and other activities. As children enter the picture, particularly during the Preschool and School Age Stage, as well as the Adolescent and Launching Stage, families appear to emphasize the importance of family celebrations. The Couple Stage of the family cycle gives the least attention to family celebrations.

Reliability

The overall internal reliability for the Family Celebrations Index is .69 (Cronbach's alpha).

Validity

The factor loadings of the coping factors and behaviors (Factor 1: Unique, Factor 2: Intrafamily) for the Family Celebrations Index are presented in Table 11.1.

Test-Retest Reliability

No additional studies to report at this time.

Table 11.1
Factor Structure for Celebrations

Coping Factors and Behaviors	Factor Loading
Factor 1: Unique	
Special changes and events (i.e., graduation, promotion)	.673
Special surprises and successes (i.e., passed a test; good report card)	.652
Relative birthdays/anniversaries	.626
Friend's special events	.595
Religious occasions (holy days, etc.)	.294
Factor 2: Intrafamily	
Yearly major holidays (4 th of July, New Year's)	.749
Occasions (i.e., Valentine's Day, Mother's Day)	.709
Children's birthday(s)	.629
Spouse's birthday	.401

Additional Validity Checks

Bossard and Boll (1950) argued for the importance of celebrations as facilitators of family functioning. When celebrations are correlated with other indices of family strengths, we were able to establish the relative validity as well as independence of this inventory table on celebrations and family strengths (Table 11.2) (H.1. McCubbin, A.1. Thompson, Pimer, & M.A. McCubbin, 1988).

Table 11.2
Correlation between Celebrations and Other Indices of Family Functioning

Family Measures	Family Celebration Index (FCI) (r =)
Flexibility	.22*
Coherence	.24*
Family Time and Routines	.30*
Family Satisfaction	.20*
Family Traditions	.29*

* p = <.05

Scoring Procedures

A family celebrations score can be obtained by assigning a value to each of the responses (Le., Never=0, Seldom = 1, Often = 2, Always = 3 and Not Applicable = 0) and adding the total of the responses selected.

Norms and/or Comparative Data

Normative data on this instrument are not available. However, it is important to note that the sample of 304 families does provide meaningful comparison data. The percentiles, mean and standard deviation are presented in Table 11.3 (H.I. McCubbin, A.I. Thompson, Pimer, & M.A. McCubbin, 1988),

Instrument Utilization for Research

The FCELEBI instrument is currently being tested within the Family Stress, Coping and Health Project and by other investigators. The few studies that have included this instrument have already been cited in the additional validity checks section of this chapter and are included in the references. Therefore, a summary table of related publications is not available at this time.

Notes

1. The earlier writings on this instrument included a comprehensive description of the instrument's development. For the sake of brevity we limited the chapter to the basic information that users have requested and needed. If you desire a copy and are unable to find our earlier publications, either the 1987 or the 1991 edition, please write to us at the Center for Excellence in Family Studies, Family Stress, Coping and Health Project, University of Wisconsin- Madison, 1300 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706 or send email to manual@macc.wisc.edu. There will be a charge for these additional materials.
2. When referencing this instrument, the proper citation is: McCubbin, R.I. & Thompson, A.I., (1986). Family Celebrations Index (FCELEBI). In H.I. McCubbin, A. I. Thompson, & M.A. McCubbin (1996). Family assessment: Resiliency, coping and adaptation-Inventories for research and practice. (pp. 34-56). Madison: University of Wisconsin System.

Table 11.3
Celebrations Percentiles, Mean and Standard Deviation

Raw Score	Number of Families	Percent of Families	Percentile
8	1	0.3	0.3
12	2	0.7	1.0
13	4	1.3	2.3
14	4	1.3	3.6
15	5	1.6	5.3
16	14	4.6	9.9
17	14	4.6	14.5
18	31	10.2	24.7
19	28	9.2	33.9
20	42	13.8	47.7
21	38	12.5	60.2
22	40	13.2	73.4
23	31	10.2	83.6
24	18	5.9	89.5
25	18	5.9	95.4
26	10	3.3	98.7
27	4	1.3	100.0

Mean = 20.553

Median = 21.00

SD = 3.103

Range = 19.000

FCELEBI

FAMILY CELEBRATION INDEX

English Version



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FCELEBI

FAMILY CELEBRATION INDEX ©

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Directions:

Please read each special event/occasion and decide how often your family celebrates (i.e., takes time and effort to appreciate the event/special situation, etc.) on these occasions. Please circle the appropriate answer: *Never (0)*, *Seldom (1)*, *Often (2)*, and *Always (3)*. Please respond to all items.

We celebrate these special moments:	Never	Seldom	Often	Always	<i>Not Applicable</i>
1. Friend's special events	0	1	2	3	<i>No friends</i>
2. Children's birthday(s)	0	1	2	3	<i>No children</i>
3. Relative birthdays/anniversaries	0	1	2	3	<i>No relatives</i>
4. Spouse's birthdays	0	1	2	3	<i>No spouse</i>
5. Religious occasions (holy days, etc.)	0	1	2	3	
6. Yearly major holidays (i.e., 4 th of July, New Year)	0	1	2	3	
7. Occasions (i.e., Valentine's Day, Mother's Day)	0	1	2	3	
8. Special changes and events (i.e., graduation, promotion)	0	1	2	3	<i>None to celebrate</i>
9. Special surprises and successes (i.e., passed a test, good report card)	0	1	2	3	<i>None to celebrate</i>