

INTERNAL CONSISTENCY OF A SPANISH TRANSLATION
OF THE FRANCIS SCALE OF ATTITUDE TOWARD
CHRISTIANITY SHORT FORM¹

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Summary.—This study evaluated the internal consistency of a Spanish version of the short form of the Francis Scale of Attitude Toward Christianity based on responses of 405 Colombian adolescent students ages 13 to 17 years. This translated short-form version of the scale had an internal consistency of .80. This estimate indicates suitable internal consistency reliability for research use in this population.

The Francis Scale of Attitude Toward Christianity, Short Form has been validated among adolescents in a number of English-speaking countries (Francis, 1992; Lewis, Francis, & Kerr, 2003). In several samples of young people, the questionnaire has exhibited good internal consistency, with Cronbach alpha between .87 and .93 (Lewis, Francis, & Kerr, 2003; Lewis & Hermans, 2003). In addition, in factor analytic studies the short form has repeatedly yielded a single factor (Lewis, Francis, & Enger, 2003; Lewis, Francis, & Ng, 2003; Lewis & Hermans, 2003).

There are available translations into Chinese (Lewis, Francis, & Ng, 2003), Dutch (Lewis, Francis, & Enger, 2003; Lewis & Hermans, 2003), French (Lewis & Francis, 2004a), German (Lewis, Francis, Ziebertz, & Kwi-ran, 2005), Norwegian (Francis & Enger, 2002), and Welsh (Lewis & Francis, 2004b), all of which maintain the psychometric properties of the original English scale. However, the Spanish translation of the Francis Scale of Attitude Toward Christianity, Short Form has not been attempted, so the scale cannot be used in Latin American countries. Since religious attitudes and

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beliefs are related to health-compromising behaviors such as early sexual intercourse, alcohol consumption, and substance abuse (Ritt-Olson, Milam, Unger, Trinidad, Teran, Dent, & Sussman, 2004), it is important to have a tool for measuring attitude toward Christianity among school-age adolescents in Spanish-speaking countries. This study assessed the internal consistency of the Francis Scale of Attitude Toward Christianity, Short Form, among Colombian adolescent students.

METHOD

Four-hundred and five students attending a low-income public school at the city of Cartagena, Colombia (203 girls and 202 boys) whose ages ranged between 13 and 17 years ($M = 14.7$, $SD = 1.3$) and who were in Grades 6 to 11 were Christians (54.6% self-recognized as Catholic and 45.4% as Non-Catholic). To guarantee the confidentiality, participants completed an anonymous form of the scale in their classrooms.

Firstly, the Francis Scale of Attitude Toward Christianity, Short Form was translated into Spanish from its English version.² Then this Spanish translation was back translated to English to corroborate equivalence of meaning of content. No discrepancies were found. This is a 7-item questionnaire that asks about the Bible, God, Jesus, church, and prayer. These items are scored using anchors of 1: disagree strongly and 5: agree strongly. Two items were reverse-scored. Scores may range from 7 to 35 points, with higher scores indicating a more positive attitude toward Christianity. The present version was based on the original 24-item version (Francis, 1978).

The means and standard deviations for the total score and for each item were calculated. Internal consistency was computed by Cronbach alpha (Cronbach, 1951).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 shows the means and standard deviations for the total scale and for each item, as well as the item-total correlations.

In the present research, the Spanish version of the Francis Scale of Attitude Toward Christianity, Short Form showed Cronbach coefficient alpha of .80. Two previous papers reported higher coefficients: Lewis and Hermans (2003) .93; Lewis, Francis, and Kerr (2003), .87. In the present research, the two reverse-scored items had the lowest item-total correlations. Similarly, Lewis, Francis, and Kerr (2003) observed lower correlations for these items with the rest of the scale. This pattern of answers is likely to be the consequence of some students not comprehending the items.

²Written permission to translate into Spanish the Francis Scale of Attitude Toward Christianity, Short Form and to reproduce the scale for this research from L. J. Francis who has placed his scale in the public domain. Interaction with Dr. Francis allows authors to keep up to date on related research.

TABLE 1
MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS FOR ITEMS AND ITEM-TOTAL CORRELATIONS FOR
SHORT FORM FRANCIS SCALE OF ATTITUDE TOWARD CHRISTIANITY AMONG
ADOLESCENT STUDENTS FROM CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA

Item	M	SD	r_{it}
I know that Jesus helps me.	4.51	.87	.71
I think that going to church is a waste of time.*	4.07	1.21	.62
God helps me to lead a better life.	4.61	.72	.76
God means a lot to me.	4.67	.71	.69
Prayer helps me a lot.	4.53	.82	.73
I know that Jesus is very close to me.	4.55	.85	.75
I think the Bible is out of date.*	4.14	1.15	.63
Total scale score	31.07	4.37	

*Reverse-scored item.

These results are limited given the socioeconomic context of this sample, as participants were dwelling in a low-income area. It is still necessary to assess the validities and internal consistency reliability of the Spanish version of the Francis Scale of Attitude Toward Christianity, Short Form in a representative sample of students from Cartagena and other Colombian cities.

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