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## **Social Mistrust Scale (SMS) (Wong, Freeman, & Hughes, 2014)**

### **General mistrust (4-items)**

Q3s<sup>R</sup> Is there someone whom you can trust at School?

Q3h<sup>R</sup> Is there someone whom you can trust at Home?

Q5s<sup>R</sup> Do people trust you with things at School?

Q5h<sup>R</sup> Do people trust you with things at Home?

### **Home mistrust (4-items)**

Q8h I feel like a target for others at Home.

Q9h Others try to harm me at Home?

Q10h I worry too much about others trying to get at me at Home.

Q11h Have you ever thought that people are following you or spying on you at Home?

### **School mistrust (4-items)**

Q8s I feel like a target for others at School.

Q9s Others try to harm me at School?

Q10s I worry too much about others trying to get at me at School.

Q11s Have you ever thought that people are following you or spying on you at School?

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### **Response scale and scoring**

All 12-items are scored on a **No [0], Sometimes [1], Often [2] scale** with scores ranging from 0 to 24 (maximum). The Social Mistrust Scale (SMS) is appropriate for nonclinical children aged 8- to 14-years. Summing all 12-items, with reversed-coded items on the General mistrust subscale, produces a total mistrust score and three factors. The 4 items on the General mistrust subscale are reverse-scored(<sup>R</sup>), such that a higher score denotes a higher level of mistrust.

### **Psychometric properties**

For more information please refer to:

Wong, K. K., Freeman, D., & Hughes, C. (2014). Suspicious young minds: paranoia and mistrust in 8- to 14-year-olds in the UK and Hong Kong. *The British Journal of Psychiatry*, 205(3), 221229. doi:10.1192/bjp.bp.113.135467

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Table 1: Descriptives of the Social Mistrust Scale (SMS) by age group

	Age	$\alpha$	$M$	$SD$	Var
Total Mistrust Score					
<b>Hong Kong</b>	8	.72	6.07	3.96	15.71
	9	.82	5.39	4.48	20.07
	10	.74	3.88	3.32	10.99
	11	.77	3.65	3.66	13.37
	12	.73	3.29	3.28	10.77
	13	.73	3.22	3.21	10.30
	14	.69	3.57	3.35	11.20
<b>Total</b>		<b>.75</b>	3.71	3.54	12.51
<b>UK</b>	8	.65	5.24	3.21	10.29
	9	.73	4.96	3.73	13.94
	10	.80	4.71	4.21	17.73
	11	.77	3.21	3.35	11.19
	12	.75	3.00	3.19	10.19
	13	.73	2.88	2.93	8.60
	14	.84	4.08	4.17	17.42
<b>Total</b>		<b>.78</b>	3.79	3.72	13.80