

Title: SALIENT WORRIES OF AT-RISK YOUTH: NEEDS ASSESSMENT USING THE THINGS I WORRY ABOUT SCALE

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Abstract of Paper: Sixty-six at-risk students in the southern United States were surveyed using the Things I Worry About Scale. From the responses to the questionnaire, 13 categories of worry were ranked from most salient to least salient. The rank order obtained in the present study was compared to that obtained with a normative group of youths in Northern Ireland. The two rank orders were found to be significantly correlated. The relatedness of the rank orderings of the two seemingly disparate samples suggests the universality of the Things I Worry About Scale. The merits of using the scale as part of a comprehensive needs assessment are discussed.