

Fake Bad Scale (FBS) (AKA Symptom Validity Scale or SVS)

References

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This reference file contains articles that address the alleged faking of symptoms in personal injury litigation that have been studied using the Fake Bad Scale, developed in 1991 by Lees-Haley, English, and Glenn. This scale was added to the MMPI-2 Extended Score Report and renamed the Symptom Validity Scale in 2007. An abbreviated version of the FBS is included as a validity measure on the MMPI-2-RF, released in 2008.

I recommend against use of the FBS as a validity indicator based on my own research, as well as a review of research by others, including the scale's proponents. It is the only MMPI-2 scale that I am aware of that has been successfully challenged in *Frye* hearings and excluded from expert witness testimony (see below for a listing of these cases). The controversy regarding the use of the FBS (SVS) has reached the attention of the mass media and attorneys' groups, including the following (note some of these sources require subscriptions):

Minneapolis Star Tribune:

<http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/health/52793062.html>

Wall Street Journal:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120466776681911325.html?mod=todays_us_page_one

Lawyers USA:

<http://lawyersusaonline.com/blog/2008/05/19/plaintiffs-attorney-turns-tables-on-8216fake-bad-scale8217/>

The following is a compiled list of references on the FBS. Ones that I authored or coauthored are available as reprint requests.

Ben-Porath, Y. S., Greve, K. W., Bianchini, K. J., & Kaufmann, P. M. (2009a). The MMPI-2 Symptom Validity Scale (FBS) is an empirically validated measure of over-reporting in personal injury litigants and claimants: Reply to Butcher et al. (2008). *Psychological Injury and Law*, 2(1), 62–85.

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Court Rulings On The FBS (SVS)

Frye Hearings:

Davidson v. Strawberry Petroleum et al., Case #05-4320 (Hillsborough County, Florida, 2007).

Stith v State Farm Mutual Insurance, Case No. 50-2003 CA 010945AG, Palm Beach County, Florida, 2008).

Vandergracht v. Progressive Express et al., Case #02-04552, (Hillsborough County, Florida, 2007)

Williams v. CSX Transportation, Inc., Case #04-CA-008892 (Hillsborough County, Florida, 2007).

Limbaugh-Kirker v Dicosta Case No 06-CA-00706 20th District Circuit Ct. 2009 Florida

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