

TITLE: Perceptions of Stuttering of the Different Age Groups

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The purpose of this study was to assess the perceptions of stuttering of school-age children who stutter and those of adults who stutter in order to determine if there is a statistically significant between-group difference.

Subjects included 8 CWS, between the ages of 10 and 19 years and 15 AWS, between the ages 24 and 40. All participants did not have a history of chronic physical or psychological disabilities. The participants were selected from the chapters of the National Stuttering Association (NSA). Inclusion criteria were age, at least one stuttering therapy received, no documented psychological, emotional, cognitive, or social disorders.

All participants were administered the Stuttering Severity Instrument-IV, (SSI – IV; Riley, 2009) in order to assess the severity of stuttering. After assessing stuttering severity ratings, all participants were administered the Wright & Ayre Stuttering Self-Rating Profile (WASSP; Wright & Ayre, 1998). For each participant the WASSP median score was calculated. Testing the participants had the same order, first the SSI-4 then the WASSP.

Results of the analysis revealed that there was a statistically significant difference between the perceptions of stuttering (the WASSP Median Score) of CWS and those of AWS ($U = 23.5$, $p = .015$), the CWS group had the highest WASSP Median Scores with the mean rank of 16.56 for CWS and the mean rank of 9.57 for AWS; there was no difference between perceptions of stuttering of PWS with different severity ratings ($H = 4.547$, $df = 3$, $p = 0.208$). A Spearman's rank-order correlation revealed that there was a moderate statistically significant positive correlation between the WASSP Median Score and Severity, ($r_{s(19)} = 0.462$, $p = .026$).

Based on our findings, there is a significant difference in the self-assessed impact of stuttering on teens versus adults using the WASSP.

If you wish more information about the research you may call Dr. John A. Tetnowski at (337)-482-6869 or Mr. Sergey Kondrashov at (337)-349-3197 at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. We will make every effort to answer your questions.