

The Researcher's Guide to the RATA Instrument

The Revised Attitudes Toward the Amish instrument was developed from William McGuigan's Attitudes Toward the Amish (ATA) instrument, itself an adaptation of McConahay's Modern Racism Scale.

McGuigan, William, and Carol Scholl. 2007. "The Effect of Contact on Attitudes toward Old Order Amish." *Journal of Applied Social Psychology* 37(11):2642-59.

McGuigan, William. 2014. "Reliability and Validity of a Scale to Measure Prejudice toward Old Order Amish." *Journal of Amish and Plain Anabaptist Studies* 2(1):147-54.

McConahay, John B. 1986. "Modern Racism, Ambivalence, and the Modern Racism Scale." Pp. 91–125 in *Prejudice, Discrimination, and Racism*, edited by J. F. Dovidio, and S. L. Gaertner. San Diego, CA: Academic Press.

The RATA was proposed and defended in the following article:

Anderson, Cory, and Lee Decker. 2020. "Evaluation and Revision of an Instrument Measuring Attitudes toward the Amish." *Journal of Applied Social Science* 14(2):195-211.

When analyzing RATA responses, reverse code the following items: 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, and 16

While individual overall attitudes can be aggregated based on this instrument, the interpretability might be too vague. Instead, consider analyzing collections of items that capture nuanced attitudes.

Questions potentially measuring:

Liberal bias: 5, 8, 12

Conservative bias: 2, 16

After reverse coding, the following items are characteristic of given factors, that is, these are items answered with some consistency across the frequency in the given directions. They potentially represent an aggregate issue that people respond for or against. See Table 2 in Anderson and Decker (2020).

Questions associated with "Pluralistic limits" factor: 2 (+), 5 (-), 8 (-), 9(+), 11 (-), 12 (-), 14 (-), 16 (+)

Responding to the idea—for or against—that, Amish should be able to do what they want, except if it means receiving preferential treatment regarding laws and citizen obligations.

Questions associated with "Character" factor: 1 (-), 3 (-), 4 (-), 6 (-), 13 (-),

Responding to the idea—for or against—that, Amish are dishonest and poor examples.

Questions associated with "Cold" factor: 4 (-), 10 (-), 14 (-)

Responding to the idea—for or against—that Amish are unfriendly, legalistic, and smothering their own people.

Questions associated with "Unintelligent" factor: 3 (-), 15 (-)

Responding to the idea—for or against—that Amish are inherently incapable (not necessarily a product of limited education).

OPINION SURVEY about the AMISH

Please indicate your response to each item by placing a number from the scale in the space provided.

Do not use decimals.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------------|----------|-----------|-------|----------------|
| Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Uncertain | Agree | Strongly Agree |

- _____ 1. Amish are generally honest people.
- _____ 2. Even if the Amish are a peace church, as Americans, the Amish should not object to military service if their country calls them.
- _____ 3. The Amish learn two languages, English and German, and in this regards, are a good model for school children today.
- _____ 4. The Amish religion is excessively legalistic.
- _____ 5. Especially in warmer weather, the full dresses and bonnets Amish women are required to wear bothers me.
- _____ 6. If a group of Amish families move into my community, I would be there to welcome them.
- _____ 7. It's kind of hypocritical for Amish to hire someone to drive them but not own cars themselves.
- _____ 8. Education of Amish children should have to meet the same minimum state standards of other U.S. schools.
- _____ 9. I would be supportive if someday a child of mine wanted to join the Amish.
- _____ 10. When I see Amish in public places, they seem friendly.
- _____ 11. I feel the Amish would be better off if they did not take the Bible so literally.
- _____ 12. Amish are really limiting their potential by not allowing their children to go beyond 8th grade.
- _____ 13. If a product is Amish-made, to me, that generally means it is of high quality.
- _____ 14. As long as the Amish aren't bothering anyone else, they should be given room to live how they please, even if that means their people have fewer opportunities in life.
- _____ 15. The Amish, on average, are just as smart as anyone else.
- _____ 16. On a religious basis, the Amish have received exemptions from Social Security and laws regarding child labor, work safety, and zoning. In general, I feel they should be held to the same standards as everyone else.