



## Validating Subjective Measures: A Multilevel View

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**Abstract:** There is a growing number of survey and measurement systems in which one gathers individual data but, by design, one does not make inferences or decisions about individuals but rather for an aggregate such as a school district, neighborhood, or state. Examples of such surveys include a policy and health oriented survey of school readiness in children, the Early Development Index (EDI), which was developed in Canada but used in many countries. Recently Zumbo (in press) and Zumbo and Forer (in press) have called such survey and measurement practices “multi-level measurement”. In striking contrast to multi-level measurement, however, our widely-used measurement and testing models (including our psychometric and validation models) are, by historical precedent, geared to individual differences, as are our constructs and construct validation work. Our purposes in this presentation are to (a) review the work to date defining multilevel measurement and (b) to provide guidance for statistical practice.





To date, the work has focused primarily on subjective measures, but we will also explore the possible uses and contrasts with objective measures.

**Key words and phrases:** Measurement Validity, Multilevel Analyses, Measurement Error

