

## ISEF Sample Abstract & Certification

### Narcissism in College Students in Comparison to National Norms

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Narcissism is a psychological concept that has been around for decades and is most commonly defined as a person's strong obsession with themselves or their appearance. In research a multidimensional model is used to describe narcissism. The dimensions include authority, exhibitionism, superiority, entitlement, exploitativeness, self-sufficiency, and vanity. The Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-40) measures the prevalence of these dimensions. In many recent studies involving narcissism conclusions formed from local samples have been translated to a national scale. There is little research supporting this action. This study aimed to better understand the relationship between local and national data samples. To determine this relationship a comparison was made between a local sample, consisting of data from students attending a nearby college, and the conclusions drawn by a meta-analysis of American college students' NPI-40 scores between 1982-2006. Norms for the local data were determined using the SPSS program which established the mean, median, mode, standard deviation, and variance for the overall narcissism and dimensions of narcissism of the population (N=27). The mean narcissism score was 19.80 for the local sample and 17.29 in 2006 for the national sample. The increase in the score value supports the meta-analysis' conclusion that narcissism scores have increased over time, this shows that there is a relationship between the local and national samples. This conclusion warrants further research of the relationship between local and national data sets on a larger scale, to better understand the validity of the translation of local data to a national scale.

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