

[TICS \[1\]](#)

Description: The Two-Item Conjoint Screening (TICS) scale is a brief screening tool. It screens for current substance use or dependence in a primary care population.

The Two-Item Conjoint Screening (TICS) consists of 2 questions about substance use:

1. In the last year, have you ever drunk or used drugs more than you meant to?
2. Have you felt you wanted or needed to cut down on your drinking or drug use in the last year?

Scoring: According to Brown et al., 1 positive response indicates a 45% likelihood of having a substance use disorder; 2 positive responses indicate a 75% chance. Sensitivity and specificity are both around 81%.

The TICS questionnaire is reprinted with permission from Dr. R.L. Brown.

Reference:

Brown RL, Leonard T, Rounds LA, Papasouliotis O. A two-item screening test for abuse of alcohol and other drug problems. *Journal of Family Practice*. 1997;44:151-160.

Links:

[1] <http://local.buppractice.com/node/1522>