Appendix 1

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Table A1.  *Descriptions of Coding Criteria Applied to Obtain Appropriate Sample Characteristics and Information Regarding Moderator Variables.* | | |
| Sample Characteristic | | Description of coding |
| Age | | age range, mean age, standard deviation of age were all coded to represent the sample’s age |
| Gender | | % of males in the sample |
| Ethnicity | | % of each identified ethnic group within the sample |
| Socio-economic status (SES) | | % within categories of SES |
|  | |  |
| Moderators and Level Names | | Description of coding within the level |
| Control Group | |  |
|  | Screened Non-Anxious control | Studies with a clinical group, where the comparison group consisted of children and adolescents screened to be non-anxious using a standardised measure of anxiety/fear. |
|  | Diagnosed Non-Anxious | Studies with a clinical group, where the comparison group consisted of children and adolescents with no clinical anxiety diagnosis as deemed by a clinical diagnostic measure. |
|  | Not *target anxiety disorder* .i.e. Not Social Anxiety, Not Separation Anxiety | Studies that compared participants with a specific anxiety disorder (X) to those with another anxiety disorder (not X). The comparison group was then coded ‘Not X anxiety’. |
|  | Clinical Externalising | Studies where the comparison group, for a group of clinically anxious children and adolescents consisted of children and adolescents with a diagnosed externalising disorder. |
|  | High Trait Anxiety | Studies with a clinical group, where the comparison group consisted of children and adolescents from the community screened as having high anxiety. |
|  | Low Trait Anxiety | Studies with a clinical group, where the comparison group consisted of children and adolescents from the community screened as having low anxiety. |
|  | Correlation | If an effect size was drawn from correlation analyses. |
| Population Focus | |  |
|  | Clinical | The focus of the study was to assess interpretation bias in a clinically anxious population. |
|  | Community | The focus of the study was to assess interpretation bias within a normative sample. |
| Comorbidity with Other Anxiety Disorder | |  |
|  | Included | Those with more than one diagnosed anxiety disorder were included in the clinically anxious group. |
|  | Excluded | Those with an anxiety disorder other than the disorder of interest or had more than one diagnosis where excluded from the clinically anxious group. |
| Comorbidity with Depression | |  |
|  | Included | Those with comorbid diagnosed clinical depression were included in the clinically anxious group. |
|  | Excluded | Those with comorbid diagnosed clinical depression were excluded from the clinically anxious group. |
| Comorbidity with Another Disorder | |  |
|  | Included | Those with a comorbid diagnosed psychiatric disorder (other than depression) were included from the clinically anxious group. |
|  | Excluded | Those with a comorbid diagnosed psychiatric disorder (other than depression) were excluded from the clinically anxious group. |
| Anxiety Subtype | |  |
|  | General Anxiety | Studies where no specific subtype was assessed, including those that assessed general trait anxiety as the concept of interest. |
|  | OCD | Studies where the target group had high symptoms or a diagnosis of obsessive compulsive disorder. |
|  | Phobias | Studies where the target group had high symptoms or a diagnosis of a specific phobia. |
|  | Separation Anxiety | Studies where the target group had high symptoms or a diagnosis of separation anxiety. |
|  | Social Anxiety | Studies where the target group had high symptoms or a diagnosis of social anxiety. |
|  | State Anxiety | Studies where the target group was assessed for levels of state of anxiety. |
|  | Other Anxiety | Studies where the anxious group was defined by the absence of a specific anxiety disorder (e.g. Social Anxiety Disorder), but had (symptoms of) another anxiety disorder. |
|  | PTSD | Studies where the target group had high symptoms or a diagnosis of post traumatic stress disorder. |
| Task Type | |  |
|  | Ambiguous Scenarios | The task used to assess interpretation bias involved responding to a set of ambiguous scenarios e.g. the ASQ. |
|  | Language Based | The task used to assess interpretation bias involved responses to language based stimuli e.g. homophone/graph task, lexical decision task. |
| Response Typea | |  |
|  | Forced Choice | Participants responded to the interpretation bias task by selecting a response from a provided set of of responses that included a threat/negative interpretation. |
|  | Open | Participants responded to the interpretation bias task by providing an open response (usually their interpretation in their own words), which was then coded as a threat/negative interpretation. |
|  | Open and Forced Choice | Scores calculated from open and forced choice responses were combined to create a composite score of threat/negative interpretation. |
| Scenario Typea | |  |
|  | Social | The scenarios were described as have a social element or as being relevant to social anxiety and a given example scenario confirmed this or the description. |
|  | General | The scenarios were described as non-social, without physical information (see below), reflect generalised anxiety, or total scenario scores from studies that have not reported separate effects from scenario subtypes. |
|  | Separation | The scenarios were described as involving some form of separation from another person or being relevant to separation anxiety and a given example scenario confirmed this or the description . |
|  | Phobias | The scenarios were described as providing information that could be resolved by assuming the presence of a feared object or as being relevant to panic disorder and a given example scenario confirmed this or the description. |
|  | Physical Information | The scenarios were described as involving reference to physical sensations of the participant i.e. heart beating, poorly stomach and a given example scenario confirmed this description. |
| Match: Scenario and Anxiety Subtypea | |  |
|  | No Match | Given the description and examples of scenarios used in the study the content of the ambiguous scenario did not directly reflect the anxiety subtype under investigation. |
|  | Match | Given the description and examples of scenarios used in the study the content of the ambiguous scenario directly reflected the anxiety subtype under investigation. |
| Dependent Variablea | |  |
|  | Threat Interpretation | Responses to ambiguous scenarios are coded as reflecting a negative or threat interpretation via forced choice or open question. |
|  | Threat Frequency | The total number of sentences after which the child identified the scenario as threatening. |
|  | Threat Threshold | The number of sentences taken to describe an ambiguous scenario before the child or adolescent state the story is scary/threatening/negative. |
| Anxiety Measure Informant | |  |
|  | Child | The child or adolescent responded to the anxiety/fear questionnaire measure or was interviewed to assess clinical anxiety. |
|  | Parent | The child or adolescent’s parent responded to the anxiety/fear questionnaire measure or was interviewed to assess clinical anxiety. |
|  | Child and Parent | The results from both child and parent clinical anxiety interviews or anxiety/fear questionnaires were combined to create a composite. |
|  | Teacher | The child or adolescent’s teacher responded to anxiety/fear questionnaire measure or is interviewed to assess clinical anxiety. |
| *Note.* a This criteria only applied to studies utilising an ambiguous scenarios tasks to assess interpretation bias. | | |