

Guide to Assessment Measures for Traumatised Children and Young People

(This guide is regularly updated to take into account the most recent research, please check that you have the most up to date version from the resources page: www.davidtrickey.com/resources)

There are no short cuts in the assessment of the traumatic impact of events on children and young people. However, some questionnaires and structured interviews may provide useful sources of information which can be used for research, for screening, or *in addition to* but not *instead of* a clinical interview. Such measures can serve a number of purposes:

- Support and strengthen clinical opinion, which may be useful in certain situations such as in Court
- Enable a *systematic* evaluation of symptoms, cognitions or the nature of the trauma memory
- Give a relatively reliable *quantitative* indication of perceived symptom severity or frequency, which can be useful for screening or measuring change
- Raise *hypotheses* which can then be further investigated

There is a more comprehensive review by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) that contains many more measures at <http://www.nctsn.org/resources/online-research/measures-review>

Diagnostic Interviews

Children's PTSD Inventory (CPTSDI)	
What does it measure:	Diagnosis of PTSD (DSM-IV)
Format:	Structured interview
Age range:	6-18
Remarks:	
Availability:	Psychological Corporation (www.harcourt-uk.com)
Reference:	Saigh et al., (2000). The Children's PTSD Inventory: Development and Reliability. <i>Journal of Traumatic Stress, 13(3)</i> , 369-380.

Clinician Administered PTSD Scale for Children and Adolescents (CAPS-CA)	
What does it measure:	Diagnosis of PTSD (DSM-IV)
Format:	Structured interview
Age range:	8+ (The adult version (DSM5) is considered appropriate for CYP aged 15 and over)
Remarks:	Produces severity score as well as diagnosis Some evidence of (convergent) validity Carrion et al., 2002 DSM5 version awaited
Availability:	www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/assessment/ncptsd-instrument-request-form.asp
Reference:	Carrion et al., (2002). Toward an Empirical Definition of Pediatric PTSD. <i>Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 41(2)</i> , 166-173.

Anxiety Disorders Interview Schedule Child / Parent (ADIS-IV)	
What does it measure:	Diagnosis of PTSD (DSM-IV)
Format:	Interview schedule. Separate versions for parent and child
Age range:	7-16
Remarks:	A checklist of DSM-IV PTSD symptoms. Published research on reliability and validity applies to diagnoses of anxiety disorders other than PTSD.
Availability:	Oxford University Press: Silverman & Albano, (1996). <i>Anxiety Disorders Interview Schedule (ADIS-IV) Child/Parent Version</i> . OUP
Reference:	Silverman, Saavedra, & Pina, (2001). Test-retest reliability of anxiety symptoms and diagnoses with the Anxiety Disorders Interview Schedule for DSM-IV: child and parent versions. <i>Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, 40(8)</i> , 937-944.

Posttraumatic stress disorder semi-structured interview

What does it measure:	PTSD (<i>alternative</i> criteria specifically for young children)
Format:	Structured interview of carers
Age range:	0-4
Remarks:	
Availability:	Free from author: Dr Michael Scheeringa, (mscheer@tulane.edu)
Reference:	Scheeringa, M.S. (2003). New findings on alternative criteria for PTSD in preschool Children. <i>Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry</i> , 42(5), 561-570.

Self-report Measures of Trauma Symptoms**Child PTSD Symptom Scale (CPSS)**

What does it measure:	Frequency of PTSD symptoms (DSM-IV)
Format:	24 item self-report questionnaire
Age range:	8-15
Remarks:	Includes impact questions "Cutoff": 16+ (Nixon et al., 2013) [11+ (Foa et al., 2001)] DSM-5 version in production
Availability:	foa@mail.med.upenn.edu
Reference:	Foa et al., (2001). The Child PTSD Symptom Scale: A preliminary examination of its psychometric properties. <i>Journal of Clinical Child Psychology</i> , 30(3), 376-384.

UCLA PTSD Reaction Index (PTSD-RI)

What does it measure:	Frequency of PTSD symptoms (DSM-IV)
Format:	47 item self-report questionnaire (including trauma questions)
Age range:	7-18
Remarks:	DSM-5 version available with psychometric properties on their way
Availability:	HFinley@mednet.ucla.edu
Reference:	Steinberg, et al., (2013). Psychometric properties of the UCLA PTSD reaction index: part I. <i>Journal of Traumatic Stress</i> , 26(1), 1-9.

Children's Revised Impact of Event Scale (CRIES)

What does it measure:	Frequency of PTSD symptoms (DSM-IV)
Format:	13 item self-report questionnaire (8 items of Intrusion and Avoidance subscales can be used without the arousal items)
Age range:	8+
Remarks:	A total score of 30+ or 17+ on just the intrusion and avoidance subscales, are equally efficient at screening for PTSD. N.B. the scoring of items is 0-1-3-5
Availability:	www.childrenandwar.org/measures/children's-revised-impact-of-event-scale-8---cries-8/ www.corc.uk.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Impact-of-events-scale.pdf
Reference:	Perrin, S., et al. (2005). The Children's Revised Impact of Event Scale (CRIES): Validity as a Screening Instrument for PTSD. <i>Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapy</i> , 33, 487-498.

Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSCC)

What does it measure:	Various trauma symptoms. Produces different scales: Under-response, Hyper-response, Anxiety, Depression, Anger, Post-traumatic Stress, Dissociation, Sexual Concerns
Format:	54 (or 44 excluding sexual concerns questions) item self-report questionnaire
Age range:	7-17
Remarks:	TSCC-A is the 44-item version which excludes items referring to sexual symptoms and pre-occupations Not diagnostic, only taps a few arousal symptoms which are scored on anxiety subscale.
Availability:	Psychological Assessment Resources Inc
Reference:	Elliott, D.M. & Briere, J. (1994). Forensic sexual abuse evaluations of older children: disclosures and symptomatology. <i>Behaviour Science Law</i> 12, 261-277.

Self-report measures of trauma memory or cognitions

Child Post Traumatic Cognitions Inventory (CPTCI)	
What does it measure:	Trauma related cognitions
Format:	25 item self-report questionnaire
Age range:	6-18
Remarks:	
Availability:	In appendix of Smith, P., et al. (2010). <i>Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: Cognitive Therapy with Children and Young People</i> . Routledge.
Reference:	Meiser-Stedman, R., et al. (2009). Development and validation of the Child Post Traumatic Cognitions Inventory (CPTCI). <i>Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry</i> , 50, 432-440.

Trauma Memory Quality Questionnaire (TMQQ)	
What does it measure:	The nature of children's trauma memories
Format:	14 item self-report questionnaire
Age range:	10-18
Remarks:	Test-retest reliability has yet to be established
Availability:	From reference
Reference:	Meiser-Stedman, R., et al., (2007). The Trauma Memory Quality Questionnaire: Preliminary development and validation of a measure of trauma memory characteristics for children and adolescents. <i>Memory</i> , 15:3, 271-279.