CPSS

Child PTSD Symptom Scale (CPSS)

The CPSS is a self-report instrument designed to measure the severity of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms in children and adolescents following a traumatic event. It quantifies both the presence and the frequency of symptoms, as well as the functional impact on the child's daily life.

Number of questions	24 questions
Estimated duration	10 minutes
Language	English
Original name	Child PTSD Symptom Scale
Target audience	Children, adolescents
Authors	Edna B. Foa, David S. F. Raghunath, Marianne S. Davies (2001)
Category	PTSD, Childhood

Preview of the 24 questions

How often has this problem bothered you in the last 2 weeks?

Having upsetting thoughts or images about the event that came into your head when you didn't want them to

Not at all or only at one time | Once a week or less/once in a while | 2 to 4 times a week/half the time | 5 or more times a week/almost always

How often has this problem bothered you in the last 2 weeks?

Having bad dreams or nightmares

Not at all or only at one time | Once a week or less/once in a while | 2 to 4 times a week/half the time | 5 or more times a week/almost always

How often has this problem bothered you in the last 2 weeks?

Acting or feeling as if the event was happening again (hearing something or seeing a picture about it and feeling as if I am there again)

Not at all or only at one time | Once a week or less/once in a while | 2 to 4 times a week/half the time | 5 or more times a week/almost always

How often has this problem bothered you in the last 2 weeks?

Feeling upset when you think about it or hear about the event (for example, feeling scared, angry, sad, guilty, etc)

Not at all or only at one time | Once a week or less/once in a while | 2 to 4 times a week/half the time | 5 or more times a week/almost always

How often has this problem bothered you in the last 2 weeks?

Having feelings in your body when you think about or hear about the event (for example, breaking out into a sweat, heart beating fast)

Not at all or only at one time | Once a week or less/once in a while | 2 to 4 times a week/half the time | 5 or more times a week/almost always

Scoring & interpretation

The total score is obtained by adding the responses to the first 17 items, rated from 0 (not at all or only at one time) to 3 (5 or more times a week/almost always), for a score range of 0 to 51. The last 7 items measure functional impairment but are usually not included in the total score. Cutoffs are available to indicate the severity of the disorder (mild, moderate, severe).