Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSCC)

CES 728 Advanced Assessment
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Purpose

- Self-report measure of posttraumatic distress and related psychological symptomatology (Briere, 1996).
- Evaluates children who have experienced traumatic events, including childhood physical and sexual abuse, victimization by peers, major losses, the witnessing of violence done to others, and natural disasters (Briere, 1996).
- Two versions:
  - TSCC & TSCC-A
Intended Use

- Male and female children
- Ages 8-16 years
- Normative adjustments for 17 year olds
- Individual or group administration
Recommendations for use

- Not designed for use as a diagnostic tool.
- Should be used to examine symptom profiles and symptom course following trauma.” (Ohan, Myers, & Collett, 2002, p. 1408)
- Trauma Symptom Checklist for Young Children (TSCYC) aged from 3 to 12 years is currently under development (Briere et al., in press)
Norm Group

- Derived from large samples (total N>3,000) of nonclinical children across the United States (Evans, et al, 1994; Friedrich, 1995; Singer, et al., 1995)

- Separate norms and T-scores are available according to sex and age (8-12 and 13-16)

- Race not a major predictor of TSCC scores
Psychometric Properties

- Reliable for all scales except for Sexual Concerns
- Convergent and predictive validity in samples of traumatized and nontraumatized children and adolescents
- Areas of sensitivity: posttraumatic difficulties, the effects of therapy for abused children, and the effects of child protection systems intervention
Strengths

- Large norm sample
  - TSCC: 3,008 children (Knight, et al., 2008)
  - TSI: 828 adults (Briere & Elliott, 1997)
- Short administration time
- Widely used (Elhai, Gray, Kashdan, & Franklin, 2005)
- Self-report
- Alternate version omits questions of sexual concerns
Weaknesses

- Non-clinical norm samples
- Non-representative sample
- Can not accurately distinguish malingering individuals (Rosen, Sawchuck, Atkins, Brown, Price, & Lees-Haley, 2006)
Cultural Relevance

Administration

- Test Materials
  - Professional Manual
  - TSCC Booklet
- Professional Requirements
- Individual or Group Administration
- Environmental Considerations
Scoring

- Missing Responses
- Calculating Raw Scores
- Converting to Standard Scores
- Plotting the TSCC Profile
Interpretation

- Normative Comparisons
- Interpreting Scores
- Validity
  - Underresponse (UND)
  - Hyperresponse (HYP)
Clinical Scales

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Anger
- Posttraumatic Stress (PTS)
- Dissociation
- Sexual Concerns
- Critical Items
Overall Impressions

- Easy to administer
- Time efficient (approximately 10 minutes for the client to complete)
- Straightforward scoring methods
- Provides subscales useful in treatment planning
- Critical items may flag immediate treatment issues
References


