Clinician-Administered PTSD Scale for Children (CAPS-C)

Type of Population
Inpatient and outpatient children and adolescents, ages 7 to 18; collateral form for adult informant is available.

Cost
Free

Copyright
U. S. Government Domain

Languages
English

What It Measures
The CAPS-C was developed to measure cardinal and hypothesized signs and symptoms of PTSD in children. It is a structured clinical interview that assesses the 17 symptoms for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) outlined in the DSM-IV draft criteria, along with eight associated features (a final DSM-IV version is currently being constructed). The CAPS-C provides means to evaluate: (a) self-reports of exposure to potential Criterion A events; (b) current and/or lifetime diagnosis of PTSD; (c) the frequency and intensity dimensions of each symptom; (d) the impact of the symptoms on the child's or adolescent's social and scholastic functioning; (e) the overall severity of the symptom complex.

Measure Content Survey, Procedure, or Process
The CAPS-C is a structured clinical interview for use by trained mental health professionals. The CAPS-C consists of standardized prompt questions; supplementary followup (probe) questions; and behaviorally-anchored 5-point rating scales corresponding to the frequency and intensity of each symptom assessed. Additional features to increase utility with children include: (a) iconic representations of positive symptoms; (b) opportunities to practice with the format for questioning; and (c) a standard procedure for identification of the critical one-month timeframe for current symptoms.

Theoretical Orientation Summary
Descriptive psychopathology based on DSM PTSD criteria, developmental psychopathology, and the extant empirical literature. The CAPS-C, designed specifically to be developmentally appropriate for children, uses a structured interview format similar to the CAPS (Blake, Weathers, Nagy, Kaloupek, et al., 1990), which has well-established psychometric properties.

Time Estimate

<table>
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<th>Administration</th>
<th>Scoring</th>
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<td>30–120 minutes</td>
<td>5–10 minutes</td>
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Equipment Needed

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<tr>
<th>Paper &amp; Pencil</th>
<th>Computer</th>
<th>Basic Psychophysiological</th>
<th>Specialized Equipment</th>
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Psychometric Maturity

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<th>Under Construction</th>
<th>Basic Properties Intact</th>
<th>Mature</th>
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Psychometric Properties Summary
To date, no psychometric properties have been examined.

Particular Sensitivity

<table>
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<th>Age</th>
<th>Change over Time</th>
<th>Culture/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Geography/Climate</th>
<th>Sexual Orientation</th>
<th>Socioeconomic Status</th>
<th>Urban/Rural</th>
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Estimate of Number of In-Process Studies
Unknown

Unpublished References

Published References

General Comments
The instrument is a product of the National Center for PTSD. A comprehensive manual, adult collateral format, and one-week symptom status format are available. The CAPS-C is available for clinical and research use, but normative data are not yet available. We ask that users provide us with feedback about the clinical and research utility of this instrument and invite collaboration on further psychometric development.

Key Words

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<th>Population</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
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Reference Citation for This Review

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