

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
MENTAL HEALTH**

**Quality, Outcomes, & Training  
Division**  
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## Purpose

- The TSCYC is a 90-item questionnaire designed to assess behaviors, feelings and experiences of children exposed to trauma.
- The developers of the TSCYC recognize children respond to trauma in different ways and have included norms based on the gender and age of the child.
- For PEI, the TSCYC is administered to **parents or care providers of children ages 3-6 at the time treatment begins.**

## Administration

- Parents/care providers should answer every question as accurately as possible.
- Can be administered and scored by non-clinical or clinical staff, but interpretation requires graduate training in psychology or a closely related field.
- Parent/care provider identifies how often each symptom was observed during the past month (i.e., Never (1) to Very Often (4)).



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# TSCYC Quick Guide

Trauma Symptom Checklist for Young Children®

Completed by the parent/care provider for children ages 3-6 years during the first and last EBP treatment session and every 6 months for the following EBP:

- Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)

## Clinical Utility

- The TSCYC provides valuable clinical information regarding a child's mental health functioning following a traumatic event.

## Validity Scales

Response Level (RL) Raw Score Range: 0-9	Indicates potential under-reporting of child symptoms, which may be due to lack of awareness, lack of insight, defensiveness, etc.
Atypical Response (ATR) Raw Score Range: 9-36	Reflects the rater's tendency to over-report child's symptoms and/or symptoms not typically observed among trauma-exposed clients. May also reveal an unusually high number of trauma symptoms

## Clinical Scales

Anxiety (ANX) Raw Score Range: 9-36	Reflects the amount of worry and fear a child displays
Depression (DEP) Raw Score Range: 9-36	Identifies the frequency with which the child displays sadness, crying and symptoms of depression
Anger/Aggression (ANG) Raw Score Range: 9-36	Anger and aggressive behaviors observed in the child
Posttraumatic Stress – Intrusion (PTS-I) Raw Score Range: 9-36	Reflects the amount of intrusive memories, flashbacks, etc., the child is experiencing
Posttraumatic Stress – Avoidance (PTS-AV) Raw Score Range: 9-36	Indicates the level of avoidances strategies child is using to avoid distress and anxiety, and potential hypo-arousal
Posttraumatic Stress – Arousal (PTS-AR) Raw Score Range: 9-36	Indicates the level of hyper-arousal child displays and may reflect attention and concentration problems
Posttraumatic Stress – Total (PTS-TOT) Raw Score Range: 27-108	Reveals the total amount of PTSD symptoms the child is reportedly experiencing
Dissociation (DIS) Raw Score Range: 9-36	Indicates detachment, withdrawal, and disengagement from external environment
Sexual Concerns (SC) Raw Score Range: 9-36	Evaluates the level of sexual distress and/or sexual preoccupation observed in child

## Scoring Information

- Review the questionnaire to ensure all items have been answered.
- 3 or more missed items on a scale renders the scale invalid/unscorable.
- If less than 3 items in a specific scale were left blank, and the parent is unavailable to clarify the answer, the clinician may record a score of "1" for the missed item(s).
- The TSCYC Answer Sheet is hand-scored using the Scoring Worksheet and Professional Manual.
- Raw scores are converted into T-scores (see manual for details).
- High scores (T-Scores  $\geq 70$ ) are clinically significant.