

Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC-35) Quick Guide

The PSC-35 is completed by parents/caregivers of child and youth mental health clients ages 3 to 18 years. The tool is completed at intake, discharge, and every 6 months in between.

The PSC-35 is a 35-item assessment of cognitive, emotional, and behavioral problems that reflect caregiver perception of their child's psychosocial functioning. It can be used to screen, inform treatment planning, and measure change over time.

The PSC-35 is available in English and has been translated to other languages including Spanish.

Administration

- The PSC-35 is self-administered and it can be given by non-clinical staff but only interpreted by clinical staff.
- For each item, caregivers indicate the response that best describes their child on a 3-point scale.
- Encourage consumers to complete **every item** on the PSC-35.

Clinical Utility

Higher scores indicate lower functioning. Factor analysis revealed 3 domains.

| Domain | Clinical Cutoff |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Attention | 7 |
| Internalizing | 5 |
| Externalizing | 7 |
| Total | 28 (ages 6-16); 24 (ages 4-5) |

Scoring

The PSC-35 total score is the sum of the 35 items [range 0-70]. See scoring sheet for instructions on scoring the domains. The measure is considered invalid if 4 or more items total are missing. For valid measures with missing items, missing items are scored as 0.

| Item Response | Score |
|---------------|-------|
| Never | 0 |
| Sometimes | 1 |
| Often | 2 |

Do not count responses to items 5, 6, 17, and 18 for children ages 4 and 5 years as items emphasize school issues that may not be relevant.

