

Pediatric Symptom Checklist – 35 Scoring and Interpretation

Each item on the 35 question screening tool is scored as follows:

0 point - Never (0)

1 point - Sometimes Present

2 points - Often Present

Scores are summed. The maximum score = 70

Interpretation:

Youth PSC: for children age 11 – 18 who complete the questionnaire?

Impairment suggested = Total Score 30 or higher

Impairment not suggested = Total score 29 or lower

Parent PSC: for children age 6 – 18 whose parents complete the questionnaire?

Impairment suggested = Total score 28 or higher

Impairment not suggested = Total score 27 or lower

Clusters of answers suggesting specific areas of concern:

Internalizing problems suggesting depression or anxiety:

- Feel sad, unhappy
- Worry a lot
- Feel hopeless
- Seem to be having less fun
- Down on yourself

Attention problems:

- Fidgety, unable to sit still
- Distract easily
- Act as if driven by motor
- Daydream too much
- Have trouble concentrating

Externalizing problems suggesting conduct disorder, oppositional defiant disorder:

- Fight with other children
- Tease others
- Do not listen to rules
- Refuse to share
- Do not understand other people's feelings
- Take things that do not belong to you

Other items on the PSC are not categorized by cluster.

How to address items left blank:

If 1 – 3 items are left blank, each is scored 0.

If 4 or more items are left blank, the questionnaire is invalid.