Trauma and Mental Health Screening Instruments and Resources

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This resource discusses the basics of screening and assessment of youth involved in Juvenile Justice Systems, with a particular emphasis on mental health needs and risk of reoffending. It first describes how screening and assessment differ through cost-analysis and end result. The article explains how these topics relate to risk assessment tools and how agencies can select appropriate and evidence-based screening and assessment tools. It provides examples of tools used in juvenile justice facilities, such as the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs and Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory. After providing many examples of screening and assessment tools, the resource highlights the benefits of screening and the importance of sound implementation. It concludes by offering key points that agencies should consider when engaging in the screening and assessment process.

Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument-2 (MAYSI-2)

Purchase at: http://www.nysap.us/MAYSI2.html
Email at: http://www.nysap.us/MAYSI2.html

The MAYSI-2 was developed by Thomas Grisso, Ph.D. and Richard Barnum, M.D., at the University of Massachusetts Medical School during the 1990s with assistance from the William T. Grant Foundation. This screening instrument is a paper-and-pencil self-report inventory of 52 questions designed to assist juvenile justice facilities in identifying youths 12 to 17 years old who may have special mental health needs. The MAYSI-2 is available in both English and Spanish as well as in software form. Substantial research supports the reliability and validity of this instrument when used in the settings for which it was intended, on the target populations for which it was developed, and administered in the manner recommended by the authors.
Child Posttraumatic Stress Reaction Index (CPTS-RI)
UCLA Trauma Psychiatry Service
300 Medical Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90095-6968

Website: http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/assessment/child/cpts-ri.asp
Phone: (310) 206-8973
To obtain the scale, email: measures@twosuns.org

The CPTS-RI is a 20-item interviewer-administered scale for children between ages 6 and 17 that assesses some of the DSM-III-R/DSM-IV symptoms for PTSD as well as guilt, impulse control, somatic symptoms, and regressive behaviors. The items on the test are rated on a five-point frequency scale (ranging from "none" to "most of the time"). The CPTS-RI yields total scores ranging from 0 to 80 that reflect the frequency of symptoms. Categories indicate the severity of the disorder (from doubtful to very severe) and are assigned based on the total scale score.

Trauma Events Screening Inventory (TESI-C)
Website: http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/pages/assessments/assessment-pdf/TESI-C.pdf
Scale is available at the above web address.

The TESI-C is a 15-item clinician-administered interview that assesses a child or youth’s experience of a variety of potential traumatic events. These events include current and previous injuries, hospitalizations, domestic violence, community violence, disasters, accidents, physical abuse, and sexual abuse. This 24-item scale is available as a structured clinical interview measure for children 8 and older. Subsequent questions examine whether the event involved threat to the child’s or other’s physical integrity and whether the child’s reactions rise to the level of Criterion B of PTSD. Each form takes 20 - 30 minutes to complete.
Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children™ (TSCC™)

Available at: http://www4.parinc.com/Products/Product.aspx?ProductID=TSCC

The TSCC allows measurement of posttraumatic stress and related psychological symptomatology in children ages 8-16 years who have experienced traumatic events, such as physical or sexual abuse, major loss, or natural disasters, or who have been a witness to violence. It is suitable for individual or group administration. It includes 54 items and can be administered in 15-20 minutes. Item responses are entered on the top page of a carbonless test booklet, automatically transferring to the scoring page underneath. The TSCC includes two validity scales (Underresponse and Hyperresponse), six clinical scales (Anxiety, Depression, Anger, Posttraumatic Stress, Dissociation, and Sexual Concerns), and eight critical items. Profile forms allow for conversion of raw scores to age- and sex-appropriate T scores and enable clinicians to graph the results. During administration, the child is presented with a list of thoughts, feelings, and behaviors and is asked to mark how often each of these things has happened to him or her. Items are rated on a 4-point scale (from 0 = "never" to 3 = "almost all the time"). It is written at an 8-year-old reading level and has been normed for boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 16.

Trauma Symptom Checklist for Young Children™ (TSCYC™)

Available at: http://www4.parinc.com/Products/Product.aspx?ProductID=TSCYC

The TSCYC assesses posttraumatic stress in children as young as 3 years of age who have been exposed to traumatic events such as child abuse, peer assault, and community violence. Designed to be completed by the child’s caretaker, the TSCYC can be administered in 15-20 minutes. Caretakers are asked to rate 90 symptoms on a 4-point scale (from 0 = "never" to 3 = "almost all the time"). Eight clinical scales (Anxiety, Depression, Anger/Aggression, Posttraumatic Stress-Intrusion, Posttraumatic Stress-Avoidance, Posttraumatic Stress-Arousal, Dissociation, and Sexual Concerns) and a summary scale allow clinicians to evaluate acute and chronic symptomatology; specific scales also ascertain the validity of the caretaker’s report. Contains separate norms for boys and girls and for three age groups: 3-4 years, 5-9 years, and 10-12 years. Spanish-language forms are available.

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