**Overview**

The Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC) is a screening tool intended to identify a wide range of psychosocial concerns. Full (35 item) and abbreviated (17 items) versions were developed for youth (Y-PSC) and caregiver (PSC) respondents. A version for caregivers is also available in pictorials (PPSC; picture options). Originally utilized in primary care, the PSC’s application has also been expanded to school and community health and behavioral health settings.

**Focus Area**

- Anxiety
- Depression/Mood
- Disruptive Behavior
- Global Functioning
- Hyperactivity
- Inattention

**Purpose**

- Screening/Initial Assessment
- Progress Monitoring

**Reporter**

- Student
- Caregiver

**Versions**

- Y-PSC-17, Student, 17 items (for ages 11-18)
- Y-PSC, Student, 35 items (for ages 11-18)
- PSC, Caregiver, 35 items (for ages 3-16)
- PPSC, Caregiver, 35 items (for ages 3-16)
- PSC-17, Caregiver,17 items (for ages 6-16)

**Subscales**

*Psychosocial impairment*

- Attentional impairment
- Internalizing symptom impairment
- Externalizing symptom impairment

*PSC-17 only

**Sample Items**

- Seem to be having less fun
- Fidgety, unable to sit still
- Fight with other children
- Worry a lot

**Response Options**

- Never
- Sometimes
- Often

**Estimated Completion Time**

- Less than five minutes (17 items)
- Five minutes (35 items)

**Languages**

- English
- Spanish
- Other

**Cost**

- Free

Access the measures:

- PSC-35 (caregiver)
- PPSC-35 (caregiver)
- PSC-17 (caregiver)
- Y-PSC-35
- Y-PSC-17

Summary compiled by CSMH (2017) for The SHAPE System [www.theSHAPEsystem.com]
## Scoring

### Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possible range</th>
<th>PSC-35</th>
<th>PSC-17*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Item scores</td>
<td>0-70</td>
<td>0-34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The reporting time frame is for the past week. Suggested administration frequency is every three to six months.

To use **the PSC & PPSC (for ages 6-18)** and **the Y-PSC** for **screening and progress monitoring**:
- Sum all items to get a total psychosocial impairment score
- Use the below table to interpret a positive score

To use **the PSC & PPSC (for ages 3-5)** for **screening and progress monitoring**:
- Sum all items, EXCEPT for items #5,6,17,18, to get a total psychosocial impairment score
- Use the below table to interpret a positive score

To use the **PSC-17** & **Y-PSC-17** for **screening and progress monitoring**:
- Sum all items to get a total psychosocial impairment score
- Subscales:
  - Sum items 1,3,7,13,17 to identify an individual at-risk for attentional impairment
  - Sum items 2,6,9,11,15 to identify an individual at-risk for internalizing symptom impairment
  - Sum items 4,5,8,10,12,14,16 to identify an individual at-risk for externalizing symptom impairment
- Use the below table to interpret a positive score

### Positive Impairment Score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interpretation</th>
<th>PSC or PPSC for ages 6-18</th>
<th>PSC-17*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28+</td>
<td>15+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Psychosocial impairment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24+</td>
<td>7+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Attentional impairment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30+</td>
<td>5+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Internalizing impairment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Externalizing impairment</td>
<td>7+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Handling blank items**

Items left blank are scored as “0;” if there are more than 4 blank items, the questionnaire is invalid

Not available

*Although the PSC 17 can be used as a youth self-report, it is important to note that neither the total score nor the individual subscale scores have been validated as of this writing.

Click here for additional scoring instructions

Access all versions (including other languages) of the PSC measure