

PTSD Checklist for DSM-5 (PCL-5)

Category: Trauma | Items: 20 | Time: ~5 min

Description / When to Use

20-item self-report measure of DSM-5 PTSD symptom severity.

Instructions for Respondent

Please read each statement carefully and respond based on how you have felt over the specified time period. There are 20 items in this scale. Estimated completion time: 5 minutes.

Scale Items

[Full item list not shown in this educational summary. Please refer to the original publication for complete items.]

Response Options

Please refer to the original publication for specific response options.

Scoring Guide

Sum all 20 items scored 0-4. Total range 0-80. Score ≥ 33 suggests probable PTSD.

Cutoff Interpretation

Score Range	Severity	Recommended Action
0-32	Below cutoff	Monitor
33-80	Probable PTSD	Further evaluation

Psychometric Properties

Cronbach's alpha: 0.96 | Test-retest reliability: 0.84

Validity: Excellent psychometric properties; aligned with DSM-5 criteria.

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Citation (APA Format)

Weathers, F. W., Litz, B. T., Keane, T. M., Palmieri, P. A., Marx, B. P., & Schnurr, P. P. (2013). The PTSD Checklist for DSM-5 (PCL-5). National Center for PTSD.

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