## Child Report of Post-traumatic Symptoms (CROPS) Parent Report of Post-traumatic Symptoms (PROPS)

## CROPS & PROPS Manual, 2005 Revision Ricky Greenwald, PsyD Child Trauma Institute

**Background:** The CROPS and PROPS provide a quick, convenient and effective way to screen for children's post-traumatic symptoms, and to measure changes in symptomatology over time. It is important to get information from both child and parent because children are best at reporting on their own thoughts and feelings, whereas adults are best at reporting on children's behaviors (Loeber, Green, & Lahey, 1990).

The measures encompass a broad definition of post-traumatic symptomatology, reflecting the empirical findings (Fletcher, 1993; Terr, 1991) rather than being limited by the narrower Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) diagnosis. One of the interesting consequences of utilizing the full spectrum of post-traumatic stress symptoms (as opposed to only the PTSD symptoms) is that this instrument has been equally sensitive to boys and girls in picking up trauma-related distress. The measures also encompass a broad definition of trauma itself, to include major loss experiences. This, too, reflects the empirical findings (Newcorn & Strain, 1992), which indicate that children's reactions to a major loss can be very similar to their post-traumatic reactions.

What it measures: Post-traumatic stress symptoms (not limited to PTSD).

**Time Estimate:** Administration - 5 minutes; Scoring - 1 minute

Languages: German, Spanish, Bosnian, Persian, Dutch, Italian, Finnish

**Cost:** \$16 for packet including Student and Parent forms, with permission to copy.

**Description:** The Child Report of Post-traumatic Symptoms is a one-page (26 items) self-report, with a focus on thoughts and feelings. The Parent Report of Post-traumatic Symptoms, also one page (32 items), assesses the child's distress from an adult's perspective, with more of a focus on behaviors. These can be used with or without an identified trauma, and because the items do not refer to a specific event, the measures can be used with minimal risk of upset. The measures may be used together or separately, and using either paper-and-pencil or interview administration.

Psychometric Maturity:			
	Under	Basic	Mature
	Construction	Properties	
		Intact	

**Psychometric Properties:** Greenwald and Rubin (1999) and Greenwald, Rubin, Jurkovic et al (2002) have presented multiple studies indicating good internal consistency, test-retest reliability, criterion validity, convergent and discriminant validity, and sensitivity to change. Children were ages 7-17 in a variety of countries and settings including community samples, incarcerated youth, war refugees, and clinical populations.

## **Instructions for Use**

**Population:** Children grades 3-8 (ages 8-15) and their parents. Unpublished data indicates apparent utility for all school-age children (ages 6-18; the youngest may need help reading the items).

**Suggested Uses:** Screening for post-traumatic symptoms in mental health, education, medical, or community settings; screening for post-traumatic symptoms following an identified traumatic event; evaluation of post-traumatic symptoms as part of a clinical intake; tracking possible changes in post-traumatic status (e.g., pre- vs. post-treatment).

**Administration:** Paper-and-pencil administration is typical, group or individual; however, some younger children and those with severe reading problems may need assistance. Interview administration is also acceptable, face-to-face or by telephone. Interviewers may assist with comprehension but not response selection. The adult respondent must be the same on each readministration of the PROPS.

**Scoring:** Each instrument has a single (total) scale score which represents the sum of all responses. In other words, add up the numbers, and that's the score. Pending further study, Greenwald and Rubin (1999) have provided tentative cutoff scores of 19 for the CROPS and 16 for the PROPS, the cutoff score indicating cause for clinical concern, and higher scores indicating more symptoms. Note that the following experimental items do not count towards the cutoff, since they were not included in the above validation studies: PROPS: wets bed; eating problems; CROPS: my future looks bad.

**Institutional and Research Users:** Major users are asked to either publish their own validation studies, or share their coded data (no identifying information) with the instrument's developer for use in further validation studies. Of particular interest is use with community samples, special problem populations, different ages and ethnic/cultural samples, concurrent additional assessment, and repeated use. Authorship credit accorded as per APA standards. Would also appreciate copies of any articles published using one or more of these measures.

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## References

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