The APA is offering a number of “emerging measures” for further research and clinical evaluation. These patient assessment measures were developed to be administered at the initial patient interview and to monitor treatment progress. They should be used in research and evaluation as potentially useful tools to enhance clinical decision-making and not as the sole basis for making a clinical diagnosis. Instructions, scoring information, and interpretation guidelines are provided; further background information can be found in DSM-5-TR. The APA requests that clinicians and researchers provide further data on the instruments’ usefulness in characterizing patient status and improving patient care at http://www.dsm5.org/Pages/Feedback-Form.aspx.

**Measure:** Severity of Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms—Child Age 11–17 (National Stressful Events Survey PTSD Short Scale [NSESSS])

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# Severity of Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms—Child Age 11–17

*National Stressful Events Survey PTSD Short Scale (NSESSS)*

Name: ______________________________ Age: _____ Date: ______________

Please list the traumatic event that you experienced: ____________________________________________

Date of the traumatic event: ______________

**Instructions:** People sometimes have problems after extremely stressful events or experiences. How much have you been bothered during the PAST SEVEN (7) DAYS by each of the following problems that occurred or became worse after an extremely stressful event/experience? **Please respond to each item by marking (✓ or x) one box per row.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
<th>A little bit</th>
<th>Moderately</th>
<th>Quite a bit</th>
<th>Extremely</th>
<th>Item score</th>
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</table>

**Total/Partial Raw Score:**

**Prorated Total Raw Score:** (if 1-2 items left unanswered)

**Average Total Score:**

Kilpatrick DG, Resnick HS, Friedman, MJ. Copyright © 2013 American Psychiatric Association. All rights reserved. This measure can be reproduced without permission by researchers and by clinicians for use with their patients.
Instructions to Clinicians
The National Stressful Events Survey PTSD Short Scale (NSESSS) is a 9-item measure that assesses the severity of posttraumatic stress disorder in children ages 11–17 following an extremely stressful event or experience. The measure was designed to be completed by the child upon receiving a diagnosis of posttraumatic stress disorder (or clinically significant posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms) and thereafter, prior to follow-up visits with the clinician. Each item asks the child receiving care to rate the severity of his or her posttraumatic stress disorder during the past 7 days.

Scoring and Interpretation
Each item on the measure is rated on a 5-point scale (0=Not at all; 1=A little bit; 2=Moderately; 3=Quite a bit, and 4=Extremely). The total score can range from 0 to 36, with higher scores indicating greater severity of posttraumatic stress disorder. The clinician is asked to review the score of each item on the measure during the clinical interview and indicate the raw score for each item in the section provided for “Clinician Use.” The raw scores on the 9 items should be summed to obtain a total raw score. In addition, the clinician is asked to calculate and use the average total score. The average total score reduces the overall score to a 5-point scale, which allows the clinician to think of the severity of the child’s posttraumatic stress disorder in terms of none (0), mild (1), moderate (2), severe (3), or extreme (4). The use of the average total score was found to be reliable, easy to use, and clinically useful to the clinicians in the DSM-5 Field Trials. The average total score is calculated by dividing the raw total score by number of items in the measure (i.e., 9).

Note: If 3 or more items are left unanswered, the total score on the measure should not be calculated. Therefore, the child should be encouraged to complete all of the items on the measure. If 1 or 2 items are left unanswered, you are asked to calculate a prorated score. The prorated score is calculated by summing the scores of items that were answered to get a partial raw score. Multiply the partial raw score by the total number of items on the NSESSS—PTSD (i.e., 9) and divide the value by the number of items that were actually answered (i.e., 7 or 8). The formula to prorate the partial raw score to Total Raw Score is:

\[
\frac{(\text{Raw sum x 9})}{\text{Number of items that were actually answered}}
\]

If the result is a fraction, round to the nearest whole number.

Frequency of Use
To track changes in the severity of the child’s posttraumatic stress disorder over time, the measure may be completed at regular intervals as clinically indicated, depending on the stability of the child’s symptoms and treatment status. Consistently high scores on a particular domain may indicate significant and problematic areas for the child that might warrant further assessment, treatment, and follow-up. Your clinical judgment should guide your decision.