Los Angeles Symptom Checklist (LASC)

Type of Population
Any, Adults, Adolescents

Cost
Free

Copyright
David Foy, Ph.D.

Languages
English

What It Measures
The LASC measures Criteria B, C, and D symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), plus associated features and complications.

Measure Content Survey, Procedure, or Process
The LASC consists of 43 brief phrases describing symptoms of PTSD or problems associated with it. The respondent is asked to supply a rating for each item, ranging from 0 (no problem) to 4 (extreme problem). There are three ways to score the instrument: (a) a sum of the 17 item ratings that most closely correspond to the diagnostic criteria for PTSD; (b) a trichotomous classification of PTSD positive, partial PTSD, or PTSD negative as a function of the pattern of endorsements of these 17 items; and (c) a sum of all 43 item ratings to obtain a global assessment of psychological distress and adjustment problems that may be a consequence of trauma exposure.

Theoretical Orientation Summary
The items were originally written to mirror the DSM-III criteria of reexperiencing, numbing, and other symptom categories, and were coupled with an array of symptoms and problem statements which, in the experience of the original test authors, were frequently seen to occur with a PTSD diagnosis. Subsequent improvements in the definition of PTSD reflected in the DSM-III-R and DSM-IV criteria of reexperiencing, avoidance and numbing, and hyperarousal are contained in the present LASC item set.

Time Estimate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administration</th>
<th>Scoring</th>
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<td>10–20 minutes</td>
<td>10–15 minutes</td>
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Equipment Needed

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<tr>
<th>Paper &amp; Pencil</th>
<th>Computer</th>
<th>Basic Psychophysiological</th>
<th>Specialized Equipment</th>
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Psychometric Maturity

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<th>Under Construction</th>
<th>Basic Properties Intact</th>
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Psychometric Properties Summary
High internal consistency reliability has been established: (a) .95 for the full 43-item instrument and .94 for the subset of 17 PTSD items across a large heterogeneous sample (N=874); (b) .94 and .91, respectively, for N=300 Vietnam veterans; (c) .94 and .89, respectively, for a combined all female sample of N=406 battered women, adult survivors of child abuse, maritally stressed women, and psychiatric outpatients; and (d) .94 and .88, respectively, for N=188 high-risk adolescents. For a small group (N=19) of Vietnam veterans, test-retest reliability (2-week interval) was .90 for the 43-item index and .94 for the 17-item PTSD index. Regarding validity, for Vietnam veterans correlations with combat exposure have ranged from .30 to .51. Similar correlations between violence exposure and LASC scores have been found for battered women and high-risk adolescents. Expected relationships with the Impact of Events Scale have been documented and several studies have shown convergence with SCID diagnoses. See the King, King, Leskin, and Foy (1995) reference below.

Particular Sensitivity

<table>
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<th>Age</th>
<th>Change over Time</th>
<th>Culture/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Geography/Climate</th>
<th>Sexual Orientation</th>
<th>Socioeconomic Status</th>
<th>Urban/Rural</th>
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Estimate of Number of In-Process Studies
10

Unpublished References

Published References

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**General Comments**
The recent article by King, King, Leskin, and Foy (1995) provides a synopsis of existing psychometric characteristics, normative information, and a summary of prior research in which the LASC has been used.

**Key Words**

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**Reference Citation for This Review**

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