Reliability, factor structure, and validity of the German version of the Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children in a sample of adolescents

Simone Matulis1*, Laura Loos1, Nadine Langguth2,3†, Franziska Schreiber1, Jana Gutermann1, Caterina Gawrilow2,3† and Regina Steil1

1Department of Clinical Psychology and Intervention, Institute of Psychology, Goethe University Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany; 2German Institute for International Educational Research (DIPF), Frankfurt, Germany; 3Center for Research on Individual Development and Adaptive Education of Children at Risk (IDeA-Center), Frankfurt, Germany

Background: The Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSC-C) is the most widely used self-report scale to assess trauma-related symptoms in children and adolescents on six clinical scales. The purpose of the present study was to develop a German version of the TSC-C and to investigate its psychometric properties, such as factor structure, reliability, and validity, in a sample of German adolescents.

Method: A normative sample of \( N = 583 \) and a clinical sample of \( N = 41 \) adolescents with a history of physical or sexual abuse aged between 13 and 21 years participated in the study.

Results: The Confirmatory Factor Analysis on the six-factor model (anger, anxiety, depression, dissociation, posttraumatic stress, and sexual concerns with the subdimensions preoccupation and distress) revealed acceptable to good fit statistics in the normative sample. One item had to be excluded from the German version of the TSC-C because the factor loading was too low. All clinical scales presented acceptable to good reliability, with Cronbach’s \( \alpha \)’s ranging from .80 to .86 in the normative sample and from .72 to .87 in the clinical sample. Concurrent validity was also demonstrated by the high correlations between the TSC-C scales and instruments measuring similar psychopathology. TSC-C scores reliably differentiated between adolescents with trauma history and those without trauma history, indicating discriminative validity.

Conclusions: In conclusion, the German version of the TSC-C is a reliable and valid instrument for assessing trauma-related symptoms on six different scales in adolescents aged between 13 and 21 years.

Keywords: Posttraumatic stress disorder; trauma; children; adolescents; self-report; assessment

Responsible Editor: Cherie Armour, University of Ulster, UK.

*Correspondence to: Simone Matulis, Department of Clinical Psychology and Intervention, Institute of Psychology, Goethe University Frankfurt, PO Box 11 19 32-120, DE-60054, Frankfurt, Germany, Email: matulis@psych.uni-frankfurt.de

For the abstract or full text in other languages, please see Supplementary files under ‘Article Tools’

Received: 24 March 2015; Revised: 28 July 2015; Accepted: 1 October 2015; Published: 23 October 2015
Reinherz, & Giaconia, 1996). Although posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) frequently follows trauma (e.g., Giaconia et al., 1995), the effects of multiple and interpersonal trauma are often complex and extend beyond core PTSD symptoms, that is, they are associated with symptoms of dissociation, emotion regulation difficulties, suicidal ideation, or aggressive behavior (Brière, Kaltman, & Green, 2008).

Various self-report instruments have been developed to measure specific trauma-related symptoms in children and adolescents such as the University of California Los Angeles PTSD Reaction Index (UCLA-PTSD-RI; Steinberg, 2004), the Adolescent Dissociative Experiences Scale (A-DES; Armstrong, Putnam, Carlson, Libero, & Smith, 1997), or the Child Sexual Behavior Inventory (Friedrich et al., 1992). In contrast to the aforementioned measures focusing on specific reported trauma-related symptoms, the Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSC-C) developed by John Brière (1996) is a broad-based, multi-dimensional self-report questionnaire that directly examines trauma-related symptoms. It comprises 54 items covering six clinical scales (anger, anxiety, depression, dissociation, depression, and sexual concerns). Every clinical scale includes 9–10 items, although some items apply to more than one clinical scale. The TSC-C is suitable for assessing different clusters of trauma-related symptoms and provides an individual profile of the child’s symptoms. It is used in a large body of studies on posttraumatic reactions in children and adolescents aged between 8 and 18 years (e.g., Kolko et al., 2010; Nilsson, Gustafsson, & Svedin, 2012) and in clinical trials for the treatment of children and adolescents such as the University of California. The TSC-C has been used in studies with the aim of evaluating a specialized treatment for adolescents with PTSD after sexual or physical abuse. Furthermore, we aimed to examine whether the German TSC-C shows the same factor structure as the original.

Therefore, we investigated the following research questions:

1) Does the German TSC-C exhibit the same six-factor structure (anxiety, anger, depression, dissociation, posttraumatic stress, and sexual concerns) as Brière’s original TSC-C?
2) How good is the internal consistency in each of those six clinical scales?
3) Do the clinical scales of the German TSC-C correlate highly with measurements assessing similar psychopathology (convergent validity)?
4) Does the German TSC-C discriminate well between those participants who had experienced a trauma and those who had not?

Method

To investigate the validity and reliability of the German TSC-C, we investigated a non-clinical normative sample (NS) and a CS of adolescent survivors of physical or sexual abuse.

Recruitment and procedure

The current investigation in the NS was part of a larger study (Langguth et al., in press). Students aged between 13 and 21 with no physical impairment and with sufficient knowledge of the German language were included. The recruitment of the NS is described in more detail in Langguth et al. (2015).

Participants in the CS were recruited at a specialized PTSD outpatient center. Patients were assessed to participate in studies with the aim of evaluating a specialized treatment for adolescents with PTSD after sexual or physical abuse: Developmentally Adapted Cognitive Processing Therapy for
adolescents with PTSD after sexual or physical abuse (Matulis, Resick, Rosner, & Steil, 2014). After initial contact with the adolescent patient or caregivers, patients were screened for inclusion and exclusion criteria. Adolescents and youth aged between 13 and 21 who reported physical or sexual abuse were included. The exclusion criteria are described in detail in Matulis et al. (2014). Informed consent was provided by the patient and, if the adolescent was under 18 years of age, by the patient’s caregivers. Both studies were approved by the local ethics committee.

Participants
Normative sample. The NS comprises a total (N) of 583 participants. All participants attended public secondary schools (grades 8–13) in a large urban area in Germany. In total, 247 participants (42.4%) had immigrant background. Further sample characteristics are presented in Table 1.

Clinical sample. The CS consists of 41 adolescents. All participants had a history of physical or sexual abuse (Table 1).

Measures
Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSC-C; Brière, 1996). The TSC-C is a self-report instrument for the assessment of psychological impairments following traumatization. It has 54 items and requires approximately 15 min to complete. The TSC-C yields two validity scales, Hyper-response and Under-response (UND), and six clinical scales that cover a broad range of possible groups of trauma-related symptoms: Anger (ANG), Anxiety (ANX), Depression (DEP), Dissociation (DIS), Posttraumatic Stress (PTS), and Sexual Concerns (SC). Questions are answered on a four-point Likert scale (0 “never,” 1 “sometimes,” 2 “lots of times,” and 3 “almost all of the time”).

The TSC-C (Brière, 1996) was studied in a NS of N = 3,008 children and adolescents. All clinical scales exhibited good reliability with a mean Cronbach’s α across the six clinical scales of .84. Furthermore, the reliability of the TSC-C was also studied in three different samples that had been recruited from child abuse centers (Elliott & Brière, 1994; n = 399; Lanktree & Brière, 1995b; n = 105; Nelson-Gardell, 1995; n = 103) with good Cronbach’s α (α = .81, .86, and .85, respectively). Further studies confirmed the TSC-C to be valid in CSs (e.g., Lanktree et al., 2008; Sadowski & Friedrich, 2000).

For the German TSC-C, all items were translated into German and translated back by a native speaker in the original language (back translation). There was high concordance between the translated and back-translated versions. In his original study, Brière allowed several items (11, 24, and 25) to load on more than one factor. To reduce content overlap between the factors, we elected to assign each item to only one factor. Item 11 refers in Brière’s study to both the PTS and DIS scales, which is understandable, as this item contains two different statements. To keep this item as simple and comprehensible as possible, we decided to translate only one part of this item (“Trying not to think.”) and assigned it to the PTS scale. Items 24 and 25 refer in Brière’s study to the ANX and PTS scales. We decided to account for these items in the ANX scale because, in our opinion, the wording and content of the German translation are more related to this scale.

Table 1. Demographics of the normative and clinical adolescent samples

| Demographic variables | Results |
|-----------------------|---------|
| **Normative sample (N = 583)** |         |
| Age                   | M = 17.44, SD = 1.98 |
| Range                 | 13–21 |
| Sex                   |         |
| Females (n, %)        | 185, 31.7 |
| History of trauma     | 260, 44.6 (trauma subsample) (n, %) |
| Physical assault      | 170, 65.4 |
| Sudden death of a loved one | 121, 46.5 |
| Severe accident       | 97, 37.3 |
| Contact with a dead body | 85, 33.6 |
| Painful medical treatment | 72, 27.7 |
| Sexual assault        | 47, 18.1 |
| **Clinical sample (N = 41)** |         |
| Age                   | M = 17.61, SD = 1.97 |
| Range                 | 14–21 |
| Sex                   |         |
| Females (n, %)        | 32, 78 |
| History of trauma     | 41, 100 |
| Sexual abuse          | 33, 80.5 |
| Physical abuse        | 32, 78 |
| Further traumatization (n, %) | 22, 53.7 |
| **PTSD**              |         |
| Diagnosis according to DSM-IV (n, %) | 34, 82.9 |
| Score (M, SD)         | 59.66, 26.49 |
| Comorbid disorders according to DSM-IV (M, SD) | 2.56, 1.40 |
| Affective disorders (n, %) | 24, 58.54 |
| Anxiety disorders (n, %) | 19, 46.34 |
| Substance abuse/dependency (n, %) | 7, 17.07 |
| Eating disorders (n, %) | 5, 12.20 |
| Somatoform disorders (n, %) | 4, 9.76 |
| Conduct disorder (n, %) | 3, 7.32 |

PTSD diagnosis and score were assessed using the Clinician-Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS; Blake et al., 2000); comorbid diagnoses were assessed using the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV (SCID-I; First, Spitzer, Gibbon, & Williams, 1997) and the Diagnostic Interview for Mental Disorders in Childhood and Adolescence (Kinder-DIPS; Schneider, Unnewehr, & Margraf, 2009).
Adolescent Dissociative Experiences Scale (Armstrong et al., 1997; in German, HDI; Brunner, Resch, Parzer, & Koch, 2008). The A-DES is a 30-item self-report measure assessing how often adolescents aged 10–21 years old actually experience dissociative symptoms. The adolescent responds to statements on an 11-point scale (ranging from 0 “never” to 10 “always”). The instrument exhibits good reliability and validity (Armstrong et al., 1997). The German HDI also shows good reliability (Cronbach’s $\alpha = .94$; Brunner et al., 2008). The A-DES was used to test concurrent validity in the CS (i.e., based on the correlation between the A-DES and the DIS). Cronbach’s $\alpha$ was .94 in the present sample.

Beck Depression Inventory (BDI-II; Beck, Steer, & Brown, 1996; in German, Hautzinger, Keller, & Kühner, 2006). The BDI-II is the most commonly used questionnaire for assessing depressive symptoms during the past 2 weeks in adults and adolescents over the age of 13. The items are answered on a four-point Likert scale. The German version of the BDI-II shows good reliability and validity (Cronbach’s $\alpha \geq .84$; Kühner, Bürger, Keller, & Hautzinger, 2007). In the present study, the BDI-II was used to investigate concurrent validity within the CS (i.e., based on the correlation between the BDI-II and DEP). Cronbach’s $\alpha$ was .94.

Center for Epidemiological Studies—Depression Scale (CES-D; Radloff, 1977; in German, Hautzinger, Bailler, Hofmeister, & Keller, 2012). The CES-D is a valid and reliable questionnaire that measures depressive symptoms during the past 4 weeks. All questions are answered using a four-point Likert scale (0 “rarely,” 1 “sometimes,” 2 “often,” and 3, “mostly”). The German version shows good reliability in adults (Cronbach’s $\alpha$ ranging from .89 to .92) as well as in children and adolescents over the age of 12 years (Cronbach’s $\alpha$ ranging from .82 to .88; Hautzinger et al., 2012). It was used in the current study to test concurrent validity in the NS (correlation between the CES-D depression scale and DEP). In the present study, the CES-D exhibited good internal consistency (Cronbach’s $\alpha = .88$).

Depression Inventory for Children and Adolescents (DICA; Stiensmeier-Pelster, Schärmann, & Duda, 2000). The DICA is the German version of the Children’s Depression Inventory (Kovacs, 1985). It evaluates the depressive symptoms of 8- to 16-year-old children and adolescents using three-point Likert scale questions. The internal consistency (Cronbach’s $\alpha = .87$) and the convergent and discriminant validity can be classified as good (Stiensmeier-Pelster et al., 2000). The DICA was used in a subsample of the CS to investigate the concurrent validity (i.e., the correlation between the DICA and DEP). In the present study, Cronbach’s $\alpha$ was .61.

State–Trait–Anxiety–Depression Inventory (STADI; Laux, Hock, Bergner-Köther, Hodapp, & Renner, 2012). The STADI is a self-report questionnaire that examines anxiety and depression in individuals aged 16 years and older. “State” refers to actual symptoms, and “Trait” refers to general experiences. Every item is answered using a four-point Likert scale. The reliability and validity of the STADI have been confirmed (e.g., Trait Anxiety Cronbach’s $\alpha = .88$; Laux et al., 2012). The STADI was used to test concurrent validity in the NS (i.e., the correlation between the STADI-Trait Anxiety subscale and ANX). In this sample, Cronbach’s $\alpha$ was .87.

UCLA-PTSD-RI PTSD Reaction Index for DSM-IV (UCLA-PTSD-RI; Steinberg, Brymer, Deck, & Pynoos, 2004; in German, Ruf, Schauer, & Elbert, 2011). The UCLA-PTSD-RI PTSD Reaction Index for DSM-IV (Revision 1) is used to assess trauma exposure and posttraumatic stress symptoms among children and adolescents. It consists of a brief lifetime trauma screening, an evaluation of A1 and A2 DSM-IV criteria, and 22 items assessing posttraumatic stress symptoms during the past month. The adolescent version is intended for youth aged 13 years or older (responses range from 0, “none of the time”, to 4, “most of the time”). Several studies have demonstrated the high reliability and validity of the UCLA-PTSD-RI index and good to excellent internal consistency ($\alpha = .88–.91$; Steinberg et al., 2013). In the current study, the UCLA-PTSD-RI was used in both samples to study the frequency of trauma and to test concurrent validity (i.e., the correlation between the UCLA-PTSD-RI score and PTS). Internal consistencies were good in both samples (NS: Cronbach’s $\alpha = .92$; CS: Cronbach’s $\alpha = .87$).

Statistical analysis

Missing data analyses were computed according to Tabachnick and Fidell (2007). In the NS, 1.29% of the data were missing. Missing data were imputed using the multiple imputation technique because the data were not missing completely at random, as indicated by the results of Little’s Missing-Completely-At-Random Test (MCAR test; e.g., Little & Rubin, 1989; Little’s MCAR $\chi^2(12,651) = 15,868.678, p < .001$). The multiple data sets derived from the multiple imputation technique were used to conduct all analyses in the normative group. In the CS, .63% of the data were missing. Because we found that the missing data in the CS were missing completely at random (Little’s MCAR $\chi^2(2,960) = .00, p = 1.000$), we estimated values for the missing data using an expectation–maximization method.

Research question 1: To evaluate the factor structure of the German TSC-C in the NS, we conducted a Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) in Mplus Version 6 (Muthén & Muthén, 1996–2010). We used the following indices to evaluate the fit of the six-factor model: $\chi^2$, the Bayesian
Information Criterion (Schwarz, 1978), the Comparative Fit Index (CFI; Bentler, 1990), the Tucker Lewis Index (TLI), the Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA; Steiger, 1990), and the Standardized Root Mean Square Residual (SRMR; Bentler, 1995). Suggestions for interpretation are displayed in Table 2. Furthermore, we compared a six-factor model to a one-factor model, considering the fit indices. Because the present sample does not follow a multivariate normal distribution, we used robust maximum likelihood estimation with robust standard errors. To optimize the German TSC-C for the German adolescent population, we excluded items with a factor loading $\lambda < .30$ (Hair, Anderson, Tatham, & Black, 1995).

Research question 2: We evaluated the reliability of each clinical scale using Cronbach’s $\alpha$. To enhance the comparability of the present study’s findings to those of previous studies that mainly investigated children and adolescents up to 18 years, we conducted reliability analyses in a younger (13–18 years) and an older subsample (19–21 years) of the NS.

Research question 3: To examine the concurrent validity of the TSC-C, we computed two-way product–moment correlations between the TSC-C scales and the corresponding questionnaires. Because the CS was recruited in different psychotherapy studies, two different depression measures were used (BDI-II and DICA). To investigate the concurrent validity of the TSC-C DEP, we used a combined depression score consisting of the $z$-standardized BDI-II and DICA scores in the CS.

Research question 4: We computed a MANOVA to test for differences in the TSC-C scores between the subsample of the NS with no self-reported trauma history, the subsample with self-reported trauma history, and the CS. The significance level was set at $p < .05$ (two-tailed). *Post hoc* analyses (ANOVA) were performed to test for group differences on each of the six clinical scales. Finally, a series of $t$-tests were computed to test for group differences on each clinical scale. Effect sizes (Cohen’s $d$) are reported. A Bonferroni adjustment was applied for the *post hoc* analyses to avoid an excess of type I errors. We only report the corrected $p$ values. Because prior studies found differences in TSC-C scores depending on age and sex (e.g., Nilsson et al., 2008), we also tested whether the groups differed in age or sex in the present study using ANOVA and the chi-square test of independence. The statistics were calculated using SPSS® Version 22.0.

**Results**

Research question 1: factor analysis

The results of the CFA in the NS are displayed in Table 2. It shows the fit statistics for the six-factor model and a one-factor model. Of the 54 items, 50 items show factor loadings with $\lambda \geq .30$ (Table 3). Item 26 (DEP scale) showed a factor loading of $\lambda = .24$. Therefore, we excluded this item from further analysis. On the SC scale, three items (34, 40, and 54) show low factor loadings ($\lambda_{34} = .19$, $\lambda_{40} = .28$, $\lambda_{54} = .14$). In Brière’s original version of the TSC-C, these items refer to the SC subscale sexual distress. Therefore, using the methods described in Brière (1996), we computed a two-factor model for the SC scale in which the sub-dimension Sexual Preoccupation (SC-P) comprises seven items and the subscale Sexual Distress (SC-D) comprises the aforementioned three items. This model shows good fit statistics (CFI: .96, TLI: .94, RMSEA: .05, SRMR: .04). All items of the SC-P and SC-D subscales show factor loadings $\lambda \geq .30$.

Finally, the six-factor model comprising the six clinical scales with SC representing a higher-order factor consisting of SC-P and SC-D shows fit indices that can be interpreted as acceptable (SRMR, $\chi^2$/df) or good (RMSEA). The CFI and TLI values are slightly smaller than the recommended values for acceptable fits. Compared with a one-factor model, the six-factor model shows better fit indices (Table 2).

All correlations among the clinical scales were positive and significant with correlations ranging from $r = .14$ (ANX—SC-P) to $r = .97$ (SC—SC-P) in the NG and $r = .19$ (SC-D—SC-P) to $r = .81$ (SC—SC-P) in the CG (Table 4).

Research question 2: reliability

Table 5 reports the internal consistencies for each of the TSC-C scales. In the NS, analyses were conducted for a younger sample (13–18 years) and an older sample (19–21 years). The overall Cronbach’s $\alpha$ was .94. For the

**Table 2.** Fit statistics of the German version of the TSC-C by model

|                   | $\chi^2$ (df) | BIC      | CFI     | TLI     | RMSEA   | SRMR   |
|-------------------|--------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| Six-factor model  | 2,660.78 (1,303) | 60,868.04 | .85     | .84     | .04     | .06    |
| One-factor model  | 4,507.46 (1,325) | 63,196.42 | .65     | .63     | .06     | .08    |

BIC, Bayesian information criterion; CFI, comparative fit index; RMSEA, root mean square error of approximation; SRMR, standardized root mean square residual; ANG, anger; ANX, anxiety; DEP, depression; DIS, dissociation; PTS, posttraumatic stress; SC, sexual concerns. Suggestions for interpreting the index as acceptable, according to Schermelleh-Engel, Moosbrugger, and Müller (2003): $\chi^2$/df $\leq 3$; CFI $\geq .95$; TLI $\geq .95$; RMSEA $\leq .08$; SRMR $\leq .10$.

Citation: European Journal of Psychotraumatology 2015, 6: 27966 - http://dx.doi.org/10.3402/ejpt.v6.27966
Table 3. Factor loadings of the six-factor model of the German version of the TSC-C

| TSC-C item                                | Factor | Factor loading (λ) |
|-------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------|
| 1. Bad dreams or nightmares               | PTS    | .46                |
| 2. Feeling afraid something bad might     | ANX    | .59                |
| happened                                  |        |                    |
| 3. Scary ideas or pictures just pop into  | PTS    | .64                |
| my head                                   |        |                    |
| 4. Wanting to say dirty words             | SC-P   | .42                |
| 5. Pretending I am someone else           | DIS    | .51                |
| 6. Arguing too much                       | ANG    | .45                |
| 7. Feeling lonely                         | DEP    | .73                |
| 8. Touching my private parts too much     | SC-P   | .63                |
| 9. Feeling sad or unhappy                 | DEP    | .74                |
| 10. Remembering things that happened      | PTS    | .74                |
| that I didn’t like                        |        |                    |
| 11. Going away in my mind, trying not to  | PTS    | .51                |
| think                                    |        |                    |
| 12. Remembering scary things             | PTS    | .77                |
| 13. Wanting to yell and break things     | ANG    | .68                |
| 14. Crying                                | DEP    | .52                |
| 15. Getting scared all of a sudden and    | ANX    | .68                |
| don’t know why                            |        |                    |
| 16. Getting mad and can’t calm down       | ANG    | .67                |
| 17. Thinking about having sex             | SC-P   | .76                |
| 18. Feeling dizzy                         | DIS    | .42                |
| 19. Wanting to yell at people             | ANG    | .75                |
| 20. Wanting to hurt myself               | DEP    | .59                |
| 21. Wanting to hurt other people         | ANG    | .53                |
| 22. Thinking about touching other people’s| SC-P   | .72                |
| private parts                             |        |                    |
| 23. Thinking about sex when I don’t want | SC-P   | .60                |
| to have sex                               |        |                    |
| 24. Feeling scared of men                 | ANX    | .37                |
| 25. Feeling scared of women               | ANX    | .30                |
| 26. Washing myself because I feel dirty  | DEP    |                    |
| on the inside                             |        |                    |
| 27. Feeling stupid or bad                 | DEP    | .72                |
| 28. Feeling like I did something wrong    | DEP    | .61                |
| 29. Feeling like things aren’t real       | DIS    | .73                |
| 30. Forgetting things, can’t remember     | DIS    | .54                |
| things                                    |        |                    |
| 31. Feeling like I am not in my body      | DIS    | .67                |
| 32. Feeling nervous or jumpy inside       | ANX    | .66                |
| 33. Feeling afraid                        | ANX    | .84                |
| 34. Not trusting because they might want | SC-D   | .53                |
| sex                                       |        |                    |
| 35. Can’t stop thinking about something   | PTS    | .71                |
| that happened to me                       |        |                    |
| 36. Getting into fights                   | ANG    | .36                |
| 37. Feeling mean                          | ANG    | .49                |
| 38. Pretending I am somewhere else        | DIS    | .56                |
| 39. Being afraid of the dark              | ANX    | .46                |
| 40. Getting scared or upset when I think  | SC-D   | .67                |
| about sex                                 |        |                    |
| 41. Worrying about things                 | ANX    | .51                |
| 42. Feeling like nobody likes me          | DEP    | .66                |

Table 3 (Continued)

| TSC-C item                                | Factor | Factor loading (λ) |
|-------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------|
| 43. Remembering things I don’t want to    | PTS    | .76                |
| remember                                  |        |                    |
| 44. Having sex feelings in my body        | SC-P   | .70                |
| 45. My mind going empty or blank          | DIS    | .59                |
| 46. Feeling like I hate people            | ANG    | .51                |
| 47. Can’t stop thinking about sex         | SC-P   | .77                |
| 48. Trying not to have any feelings       | DIS    | .58                |
| 49. Feeling mad                           | ANG    | .54                |
| 50. Feeling afraid somebody will kill me  | ANX    | .47                |
| 51. Wishing bad things had never happened | PTS    | .64                |
| 52. Wanting to kill myself                | DEP    | .54                |
| 53. Daydreaming                           | DIS    | .45                |
| 54. Getting upset when people talk about | SC-D   | .44                |
| sex                                       |        |                    |

ANG, anger; ANX, anxiety; DEP, depression; DIS, dissociation; PTS, posttraumatic stress; SC-D, sexual distress; SC-P, sexual preoccupation.

*Removed from final model based on factor loading < .30.

Research question 3: concurrent validity

Concurrent validity was established by two-way product-moment correlations between the TSC-C scales and further measurements that were completed in the NS (CES-D, STADI, and UCLA-PTSD-RI) and the CS (A-DES, DICA, BDI-II, and UCLA-PTSD-RI). In the NS, we observed high correlations between DEP and the CES-D (.72, p < .001), between ANX and the STADI (.79, p < .001), and between PTS and the UCLA-PTSD-RI (.76, p < .001). In the CS, we observed high correlations between DIS and the A-DES (.71, p < .001), between DEP and the z-standardized depression score (.81, p < .001), and between PTS and the UCLA-PTSD-RI (.79, p < .001) (for full information on all correlations see Supplementary file).

Research question 4: discriminative validity

To test discriminative validity, differences in the TSC-C scores between the subsample of the NS with a history of trauma, the subsample of the NS without a history of trauma, and the CS were investigated. An analysis of variance showed that the groups differed significantly in age (F[2.621] = 11.91, p < .001). Post hoc analyses using the Scheffé post hoc criterion for significance (Scheffé, 1953) indicated that the traumatized subsample of the NS was significantly older than the non-traumatized subsample.
A chi-square test of independence was performed to examine the relationship between sex and group. The relationship between these variables was significant ($\chi^2 (2, N = 604) = 40.14, p < .001$) in that there were relatively more girls in the traumatized subsample than in the non-traumatized subsample of the NS. Thus, we included age and sex as covariates in the further analysis.

Wilks's statistic indicated that there was a significant effect of group on the TSC-C scores after controlling for age and sex, $\eta^2 = .18$. Table 5 shows the detailed results of the MANCOVA with the results for each of the clinical scales. Post hoc tests revealed that in the NS, the traumatized subsample had higher scores on the TSC-C and all clinical scales than the subsample with no self-reported trauma history; the effects were small (SC-P: $d = .30$) to large (PTS: $d = .92$; Table 6). The CS presented significantly higher scores than the NS subsample with no self-reported trauma for all scales except the SC scale, with medium (ANG: $d = .70$) to large (PTS: $d = 2.55$) effects. Considering the subscales of the SC scale, the analyses show that the CS had higher scores on the SC-P scale ($d = 1.23$) but not on the SC-D scale. Compared with the traumatized subsample of the NS, the CS showed higher scores on the ANX, DEP, and PTS scales, with large effects. Considering the SC subscales, the CS reported lower scores on the SC-P scale but higher scores on the SC-D scale.

**Discussion**

At present, there is no German measurement that assesses the broad range of trauma-related symptoms in children and adolescents. Therefore, we developed a German version of the TSC-C (Brière, 1996), and evaluated the German TSC-C in a sample of adolescents between 13 and 21 years old. This is the first study on the German version of the TSC-C in a sample of adolescents between 13 and 21 years old. The results from Brière's (1996) study ($N = 3,008$) are displayed in parentheses in the second column; the results from the study conducted in a child abuse center (Elliott & Brière, 1994; $N = 399$) are shown in parentheses in the third column. ANG, anger; ANX, anxiety; DEP, depression; DIS, dissociation; PTS, posttraumatic stress; SC, sexual concerns; UND, validity scale under-response; HYP, validity scale hyper-response.

**Table 4.** Correlations between the TSC-C Clinical Scales and the total TSC-C Scale in the normative and clinical samples

| Clinical Scale | TSC-C ANG | TSC-C ANX | TSC-C DEP | TSC-C DIS | TSC-C PTS | TSC-C SC | SC-P |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|------|
|               | TSC-C ANG | TSC-C ANX | TSC-C DEP | TSC-C DIS | TSC-C PTS | TSC-C SC | SC-P |
| TSC-C ANG     | .52 (.52) | .62 (.54) | .57 (.56) | .63 (.62) | .62 (.61) | .67 (.70) |      |
| TSC-C ANX     |          | .72 (.76) | .72 (.75) | .68 (.69) | .52 (.66) | .77 (.77) |      |
| TSC-C DEP     |          |          | .70 (.73) | .70 (.73) | .64 (.74) |         |      |
| TSC-C DIS     |          |          |          | .63 (.73) | .51 (.70) |         |      |
| TSC-C PTS     | .55 (.73) | .70 (.81) | .23 (.45) | .24 (.41) | .32 (.51) | .30 (.51) |      |
| TSC-C SC      | .39 (.37)| .23 (.32) | .68 (.69) | .71 (.70) | .64 (.61) | .52 (.69) |      |
| SC-P          | .36 (.40)| .14 (.32) | .16 (.34) | .25 (.44) | .22 (.41) | .97 (.92) |      |
| SC-D          | .24 (.19)| .39 (.48) | .35 (.37) | .34 (.41) | .35 (.47) | .47 (.72) | .22 (.40) |
| TSC-C total   | .34 (.42)| .56 (.66) | .39 (.52) | .30 (.53) | .41 (.56) | .74 (.74) | .19 (.39) |

ANG, anger; ANX, anxiety; DEP, depression; DIS, dissociation; PTS, posttraumatic stress; SC, sexual concerns. Pearson's correlation sign two-tailed $p < .05$ for all calculations.

**Table 5.** Cronbach's $\alpha$'s for the TSC-C Subscales and the TSC-C Total Scale in the normative and clinical samples

| Clinical Scale | Normative sample | Clinical sample |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| TSC-C ANG     | .78 (.89)         | .79 (.87)       |
| TSC-C ANX     | .79 (.82)         | .84 (.83)       |
| TSC-C DEP     | .85 (.86)         | .88 (.87)       |
| TSC-C DIS     | .79 (.83)         | .80 (.80)       |
| TSC-C PTS     | .85 (.87)         | .85 (.86)       |
| TSC-C SC      | .81 (.77)         | .79 (.74)       |
| SC-P          | .84 (.81)         | .83 (.72)       |
| SC-D          | .45 (.64)         | .68 (.86)       |
| TSC-C total   | .94               | .94             |
| UND           | .82 (.85)         | .85             |
| HYP           | .61 (.66)         | .70             |

The results from Brière's (1996) study ($N = 3,008$) are displayed in parentheses in the second column; the results from the study conducted in a child abuse center (Elliott & Brière, 1994; $N = 399$) are shown in parentheses in the third column. ANG, anger; ANX, anxiety; DEP, depression; DIS, dissociation; PTS, posttraumatic stress; SC, sexual concerns; UND, validity scale under-response; HYP, validity scale hyper-response.
of the TSC-C using both a large normative and a CS sample. In line with our hypothesis derived from the original version of the TSC-C, we observed a six-factor structure, with every scale demonstrating acceptable to good Cronbach’s $\alpha$ values; high correlations of the TSC-C scales with similar measures (concurrent validity), and TSC-C scores that reliably differentiated between traumatized and non-traumatized participants.

The overall scale exhibited excellent internal consistencies for the NS and the CS in accordance with results reported in a Swedish study on the TSC-C (Nilsson et al., 2008). In the NS, the reliability analyses demonstrated good reliability for all six clinical scales, whereas the values for the older age group were higher than those of the younger age group on all scales except the SC scale. When comparing the results for the younger age group with those obtained by Brière (1996), Bäl, Crombez, Van Oost, and Debourdeaudhuij (2003), or Chung (2014), who investigated psychometric properties in youths up to the age of 18, the results are comparable. The SC subscale SC-D showed the lowest value in the NS. This result is also in line with previous studies: for example, Nilsson et al. (2008) report a Cronbach’s $\alpha$ of .54 on the SC-D scale. For the CS, all clinical scales presented acceptable to good reliability. This is in line with Crouch et al. (1999), who studied the TSC-C in a sample of $N = 80$ sexually abused children and adolescents, and Sadowski and Friedrich (2000), who investigated the psychometric properties of the TSC-C in a psychiatric adolescent sample ($N = 119$).

Previous studies of the TSC-C report lower internal consistencies for the SC scale (Brière, 1996; Chung, 2014; Crouch et al., 1999; Nilsson et al., 2008). One might speculate that these relatively low values in the previous studies could be explained by the fact that Brière originally proposed the SC scale to have two subscales, namely Sexual Preoccupation and Sexual Distress, thus resulting in a larger inconsistency. However, in the present study, three of the four items that were supposed to load on the Sexual Distress subscale had to be excluded because they presented low loadings on the SC scale. This raised the SC scale’s internal consistency.

In the present study, we decided to exclude items that presented excessively low factor loadings ($<.30$) from the German TSC-C. Item 26 did not sufficiently load on the originally proposed DEP scale. One might assume that this item reflects more of a feeling of being contaminated than an aspect of depression. As victims of sexual violence often suffer from the feeling of being contaminated (Jung & Steil, 2013; Steil, Jung, & Stangier, 2011), we supposed that this item might be related to the PTS scale. However, when computing a PTS factor model including item 26, this item still revealed a factor loading $<.30$. Thus, we excluded this item from the German TSC-C.

Using CFA, we were able to find a factor structure close to that of Brière’s original TSC-C version (Brière, 1996).

---

**Table 6. MANCOVA for the TSC-C differences between the normative and the clinical samples, with age and gender as covariates**

| Clinical scale | NS1 M  SD | NS2 M  SD | CS M  SD | Group | F  df  | NS2-NS1 d  | CS-NS1 d  | CS-NS2 d |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|-------|-------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| TSC-C ANG    | 5.14     | 3.93     | 7.69     | 4.66  | 7.95  | 4.81      | 20.69***  | .60      | .70     |
| TSC-C ANX    | 3.57     | 3.36     | 5.77     | 4.10  | 11.33 | 5.74      | 53.20***  | .59      | 2.10    |
| TSC-C DEP    | 3.84     | 3.71     | 6.14     | 4.61  | 11.19 | 5.87      | 38.72***  | .56      | 1.84    |
| TSC-C DIS    | 4.18     | 3.86     | 6.49     | 4.38  | 7.83  | 5.38      | 15.66***  | .56      | .90     |
| TSC-C PTS    | 4.52     | 3.73     | 8.50     | 4.97  | 14.61 | 5.44      | 92.62***  | .56      | .90     |
| TSC-C SC     | 5.01     | 4.18     | 6.61     | 5.04  | 5.73  | 4.59      | 7.81***   | .92      | 2.55    |
| SC-P         | 4.51     | 3.87     | 5.72     | 4.50  | 3.60  | 3.17      | 5.99**    | .35      | .30     |
| SC-D         | .50      | 1.04     | .89      | 1.45  | 2.16  | 2.77      | 19.43***  | .32      | 1.23    |

NS1, non-trauma subsample of the normative sample; NS2, trauma subsample of the normative sample; CS, clinical sample; M, mean value; SD, standard deviation; $d$, Cohen’s $d$; ANG, anger; ANX, anxiety; DEP, depression; DIS, dissociation; PTS, posttraumatic stress; SC, sexual concerns. *$p < .01$; **$p < .001$; ns, not significant.
The high concordance between Brière's original study and the results of the German version of the TSC-C is remarkable considering the broad structure of the instrument and the differences concerning the structure of the studied samples. First, Brière's standardization sample has a higher share of girls (53 vs. 35% in the present NS). Second, contrary to our study, Brière's sample also covers children under the age of 13 but does not refer to adolescents between 18 and 21 years of age. Moreover, we observed lower means on five of the six clinical scales (not on the SC scale). The same pattern was found in the Swedish and Korean investigations. The lower scores of the present study's samples could be explained by the fact that the adolescents in the present study's NS were more likely to underreport symptoms than were the older participants in Brière study, as indicated by the higher underreporting scale scores of the present study's normative group (UND score in the present sample: males: $M = 7.56$, $SD = 4.54$; females: $M = 10.59$, $SD = 4.56$ vs. UND score in Brière’s standardization sample: males: $M = 2.9$, $SD = 2.6$; females: $M = 1.7$, $SD = 2.0$).

To investigate aspects of validity, we studied the concurrent and discriminative validity of the German TSC-C. As hypothesized, in the NS, we found high and significant correlations between the ANX scale and the STADI, between the DEP scale and the CES-D, and between the PTS scale and the UCLA-PTSD-R1. Although other studies on the TSC-C have also considered concurrent validity in their NSs (Brière, 1996; Chung, 2014), they are not directly comparable to our results because they used different instruments. In line with the results in our NS, as hypothesized, we also found high and significant correlations between the DIS scale and the A-DES, between the DEP-scale and the DICA and the BDI-II, and between the PTS scale and the UCLA-PTSD-R1. These results are also comparable to those reported by Sadowski and Friedrich (2000), who observed a correlation of $r = .81$ between the DEP scale and the BDI and $r = .79$ between the DIS scale and the A-DES. These findings indicate that concurrent validity for the German TSC-C is confirmed.

Further support for the validity of the German TSC-C is based on the finding that in the NS, the adolescents with a trauma history had significantly higher scores on all clinical scales compared with the adolescents without a trauma history, whereas the participants in the CS had higher scores on five of the six clinical scales compared with the non-traumatized subsample of the NS after controlling for age and sex differences. Considering both of the SC subscales, the participants in the CS appeared to report more symptoms of sexual distress than those in the NS. At the same time, the CS participants reported as many symptoms of SC-P as the non-traumatized subsample of the CS and even fewer symptoms than the traumatized subsample of the NS did. These findings are in line with those reported by Nilsson et al. (2008), who also used normative and CSs. Considering that the CS in the present study comprised a high proportion of victims of sexual violence, one might speculate that symptoms of sexual distress—such as “not trusting other people because they might want sex” or “getting upset when people talk about sex”—might be a symptom group that is characteristic of youths who have experienced severe interpersonal violence. However, to prove this hypothesis, future research must examine and compare the psychometric properties of the TSC-C—especially the SC scale—in samples that report having experienced different types of trauma.

**Limitations and implications for future research**

Several limitations and weaknesses may impede the generalizability of our results. First, participants in the NS were allocated to the trauma subsample if they reported a traumatic event according to the DSM-IV in the UCLA-PTSD-R1. Measuring traumatic events through the sole use of questionnaires is much less valid than doing so through clinical interviews. Participants might have misunderstood the questions and given false positive answers here. However, assessing traumatic events via a clinical interview is very difficult if a large sample is needed. Second, our NS is not representative of the population of German adolescents with respect to age, sex, and educational level. Contrary to the originally intended and recommended use of the TSC-C in children from 8 to 16 years of age, the German TSC-C was studied here in a NS with a mean age of approximately 17 years, whereas 52.1% of participants in the NS of the present study were between 18 and 21 years old. Our results—from the first study administering the TSC-C to adolescents older than 17 years—imply that the instrument is appropriate for application in this age group. However, the extent to which the results of the present study on the German TSC-C are generalizable to younger samples remains unclear. However, in Brière’s original standardization sample, 70% of the participants were between 15 and 16 years old.

Further investigations of the psychometric properties of the German TSC-C in children below the age of 13 are needed. With regard to sex, our NS predominantly comprised male participants. Concerning educational level, in our NS, higher educational levels were under-represented compared with the general population of 13- to 21-year-old Germans. All of this should be considered in future research on the German TSC-C.

Finally, in our NS, participants with a trauma history were over-represented compared with the results of older epidemiological studies using German samples. Although 44.6% of our NS reported having experienced one or more traumas, Perkonigg, Kessler, Storz, and Wittchen (2000) found that only 17% of their representative community sample (participants between 14 and 24 years of age) had experienced a traumatic event according to DSM-IV A1...
and A2 criteria. Essau, Conradt, and Petermann (2000) reported a prevalence of 22.5% in their 12- to 17-years-old representative sample. However, when comparing the prevalence rates of traumatic events in the present study with those in the latest epidemiological study in Switzerland, the results are comparable. Landolt, Schnyder, Maier, Schoenbucher, and Mohler-Kuo (2013) found that 56.1% of the adolescents in their representative sample reported at least one traumatic event on the UCLA-PTSD-R1. The relatively higher prevalence of traumatic events reported by Landolt et al. (2013) and in the present study might be explained by a methodological issue: whereas Perkonigg et al. (2000) and Essau et al. (2000) used structured interviews to assess trauma history, both the present study and Landolt et al. (2013) used self-report measures. At the same time, this difference could be explained by a cohort effect, for example, an increase in trauma rates over the past 15 years. Thus, the question of the extent to which the NS in the present study is representative of the prevalence of traumatic events might depend on both the methodology of the studies and a possible increase in rates. However, because there are no actual epidemiological studies investigating the trauma rates in Germany using structured interviews, this aspect cannot be clarified sufficiently.

Conclusions

We conclude that the German TSC-C is a reliable instrument for the assessment of trauma-related symptoms on six different scales in adolescents between the ages of 13 and 21. We found evidence that the TSC-C scales measure the aspects for which they were designed. It is useful for German researchers to be able to compare the German results of studies on trauma symptoms in children and adolescents with international results. Furthermore, it is useful for helping German clinicians provide individual trauma symptoms profiles, which are needed to plan appropriate therapeutic help for traumatized children. Further investigations should study the psychometric properties of the German TSC-C in children younger than 13 years of age.

Authors’ contributions

SM, RS, CG, and NL designed the study. All authors participated in the acquisition of data. SM and LL conducted the statistical analyses. SM wrote the protocol. All authors contributed to the final manuscript, and all authors have approved the final manuscript.

Acknowledgements

The authors thank Giulia Capudi, Magdalena Eich, Hanna Fray, Corinna Jung, Lena Löffler, Susan Manzke, Verena Noel, Sarah Seitz, and Ebru Stämen for their help with data collection.

Conflict of interest and funding

This research was supported in part by grant 01KR1204A (for Franziska Schreiber) and by grant 01KR1204C (for Regina Steil and Jana Gutermann) from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The detailed manual of the German Trauma Symptom Checklist is planned for publication in Germany. In addition to the data presented in the present paper, the detailed manual will comprise further data on the German TSC-C. The authors have no further current or potential competing interests to declare that may have a direct bearing on the subject matter of the article.

References

Armstrong, J. G., Putnam, F. W., Carlson, E. B., Libero, D. Z., & Smith, S. R. (1997). Development and validation of a measure of adolescent dissociation: The Adolescent Dissociative Experiences Scale. Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease, 185(8), 491–497.

Bal, S., Crombez, G., Van Oost, P., & Debourdeaudhuij, I. (2003). The role of social support in well-being and coping with self-reported stressful events in adolescents. Child Abuse and Neglect, 27(12), 1377–1395. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2003.06.002

Bal, S., & Uvin, K. (2009). De Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSCC): Psychometrische kwaliteiten van de Nederlandse vertaling. Gedragstherapie, 42(3–4), 185–204.

Balaban, V. (2006). Psychological assessment of children in disasters and emergencies. Disasters, 30(2), 178–198. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.0361-3666.2006.00314.x

Beck, A. T., Steer, R. A., & Brown, G. K. (1996). Manual for the Beck Depression Inventory-II. San Antonio, TX: The Psychological Corporation.

Bentler, P. M. (1990). Comparative fit indexes in structural models. Psychological Bulletin, 107(2), 238–246. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.107.2.238

Bentler, P. M. (1995). EQS structural equations program manual. Encino, CA: Multivariate Software.

Blake, D., Weathers, F., Nagy, L., Kaloupek, D., Klauminzer, G., Charney, S. D., et al. (2000). Clinician-Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS) instruction manual. Boston, MA: National Center for PTSD.

Boney-McCoy, S., & Finkelhor, D. (1995). Psychosocial sequelae of violent victimization in a national youth sample. Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 63(5), 726–736. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/0022-006X.63.5.726

Brière, J. (1996). Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSC-C) professional manual. Odessa, FL: Psychological Assessment Resources.

Brière, J., Kaltman, S., & Green, B. L. (2008). Accumulated childhood trauma and symptom complexity. Journal of Traumatic Stress, 21(2), 223–226. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jts.20317

Brunner, R. M., Resch, F., Parzer, P., & Koch, E. (2008). Heidelberger Dissociations-Inventar. HDI. Frankfurt: Pearson Assessment & Information.

Chung, U. S. (2014). The Korean version of the trauma symptom checklist for children: Psychometric properties and the connection to trauma among Korean children and adolescents. Journal of Korean Medical Science, 29(6), 837–845. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.3346/jkms.2014.29.6.837
Cohen, J. A., Mannarino, A. P., & Knudsen, K. (2005). Treating sexually abused children: 1 year follow-up of a randomized controlled trial. Child Abuse and Neglect, 29(2), 135–145. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2004.12.005

Copeland, W. E., Keeler, G., Angold, A., & Costello, E. J. (2007). Traumatic events and posttraumatic stress in childhood. Archives of General Psychiatry, 64(5), 577–584. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1001/archpsyc.64.5.577

Crouch, J. L., Smith, D. W., Ezzell, C. E., & Saunders, B. E. (1999). Measuring reactions to sexual trauma among children: Comparing the children’s impact of traumatic events scale and the trauma symptom checklist for children. Child Maltreatment, 4(3), 255–263. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/10775595990040003006

D’Andrea, W., Ford, J., Stolbach, B., Spinazzola, J., & Van der Kolk, B. A. (2012). Understanding interpersonal trauma in children: Why we need a developmentally appropriate trauma diagnosis. American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 82(2), 187–200. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1939-0025.2012.01154.x

Elliott, D. M., & Briere, J. (1994). Forensic abuse evaluations of older children: Disclosures and symptomatology. Behavioral Sciences and the Law, 12, 261–277. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/bsl.2370120306

Essau, C. A., Conradt, J., & Petermann, F. (2000). Frequency, comorbidity, and psychosocial impairment of anxiety disorders in German adolescents. Journal of Anxiety Disorders, 14(3), 263–279. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0887-6185(99)00039-0

Fergusson, D. M., Boden, J. M., & Horwood, L. J. (2003). Exposure to childhood sexual and physical abuse and adjustment in early adulthood. Child Abuse and Neglect, 32(6), 607–619. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0145-2134(0300145-2), 19(9), 1145–1155. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.childabuse.2007.10.003

First, M. B., Spitzer, R. L., Gibbon, M., & Williams, J. B. W. (1997). Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Axis I disorders (SCID I). New York: Biometric Research Department.

Friedrich, W. N., Grambsch, P., Damon, L., Hewitt, S. K., Koverola, C., Lang, R. A., et al. (1992). Child sexual behavior inventory: Normative and clinical comparisons. Psychological Assessment, 4(3), 303–311. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/1034-3590.4.3.303

Giaconina, R. M., Reinhertz, H. Z., Silverman, A. B., Pakiz, B., Frost, A. K., & Cohen, E. (1995). Traumas and posttraumatic stress disorder in a community population of older adolescents. Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 34(10), 1369–1380. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/00044834-199510000-00022

Guterman, N. B., Cameron, M., & Hahm, H. C. (2003). Community violence exposure and associated behavior problems among children and adolescents in residential treatment. Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma, 6(2), 111–135. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1300/J146v06n02_06

Hair, J. F., Anderson, R. E., Tatham, R. L., & Black, W. C. (1995). Multivariate data analysis with readings. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Hautzinger, M., Brie`re, J., & Matula, L. K., & Muthen, B. O. (1996). Mplus user’s guide (6th edn). Los Angeles, CA: Muthen & Muthen.

Kolko, D. J., Hurlburt, M. S., Zhang, J., Barth, R. P., Leslie, L. K., & Burns, B. J. (2010). Posttraumatic stress symptoms in children and adolescents referred for child welfare investigation: A national sample of in-home and out-of-home care. Child Maltreatment, 15(1), 48–63. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1077559509337892

Kovacs, M. (1985). The Children’s Depression, Inventory (CDI). Psychopharmacology Bulletin, 21(4), 995–8.

Kühner, C., Bürger, C., Keller, F., & Hautzinger, M. (2007). Reliability und Validität des revidierten Beck-Depressionsinventars (BDI-II) [Reliability and validity of the Revised Beck Depression Inventory (BDI-II)]. Der Nervenarzt, 78(6), 651–656. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00115-006-2098-7

Kolko, D. J., & Stein, R. (2004). Developmentally adapted cognitive processing therapy for adolescents suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder after childhood sexual or physical abuse: A pilot study. Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review, 17(2), 173–190. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10567-013-0156-9

Mohammadkhani, P., Nazari, M. A., Dogaheh, E. R., Mohammadi, M. R., & Azadmehr, H. (2007). Standardization of the Trauma Symptoms Checklist for Children (TSCC) among children affected by HIV/AIDS in China. AIDS Care, 21(5), 261–270. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09540120802195119

Nelson-Gardell, D. (1995, September). Validation of a treatment outcome measurement toll: Research for and with human service agencies. Paper presented at the 35th Annual Workshop of the National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics, Jackson, WY.
Nilsson, D., Wadsby, M., & Svedin, C. G. (2008). The psychometric properties of the Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSCC) in a sample of Swedish children. *Child Abuse and Neglect, 32*(6), 627–636. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2007.09.009

Nilsson, D. K., Gustafsson, P. E., & Svedin, C. G. (2012). Polytumatisation and trauma symptoms in adolescent boys and girls: Interpersonal and noninterpersonal events and moderating effects of adverse family circumstances. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 27*(13), 2645–2664. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0886260512436386

Perkonigg, A., Kessler, R. C., Storz, S., & Wittchen, H. U. (2000). Traumatic events and post-traumatic stress disorder in the community: Prevalence, risk factors and comorbidity. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica, 101*(1), 46–59. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1034/j.1600-0447.2000.101001046

Radloff, L. (1977). The CES-D Scale: A self report depression scale for research in the general. *Applied Psychological Measurement, 1*(3), 385–401. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/014662167700100306

Radloff, L. (1977). The CES-D Scale: A self report depression scale for research in the general. *Applied Psychological Measurement, 1*(3), 385–401. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/014662167700100306

Ruf, M., Schauer, M., & Elbert, T. (2011). UPID: UCLA PTSD index for DSM IV (child version, revision 1, deutsche Fassung). In C. Barkmann, M. Schulte-Markwort, & E. Braehler (Eds.), *Klinisch-psychiatrische Ratingskalen für das Kindes- und Jugendalter [Psychiatric rating scales for children and adolescents]*. (pp. 468–472). Göttingen: Hogrefe.

Schadowski, C. M., & Friedrich, W. N. (2000). Psychometric properties of the Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSCC) with psychiatrically hospitalized adolescents. *Child Maltreatment, 5*(4), 364–372. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/107755950000504008

Scheffé, H. A. (1953). A method of judging all contrasts in the analysis of variance. *Biometrika, 40*, 87–104. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/biomet/40.1-2.87

Schermelleh-Engel, K., Moosbrugger, H., & Müller, H. (2003). Evaluating the fit of structural equation models: Tests of significance and descriptive goodness-of-fit measures. *Methods of Psychological Research, 8*(2), 23–74.

Schneider, S., Unnewehr, S., & Margraf, J. (Eds.). (2009). *Diagnostisches interview bei psychischen Störungen im Kindes- und Jugendalter* (2nd ed.). Heidelberg: Springer.

Schwarz, G. E. (1978). Estimating the dimension of a model. *Annals of Statistics, 6*(2), 461–464. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1214/aos/1176344136

Silverman, A. B., Reinherz, H. Z., & Giaconia, R. M. (1996). The long-term sequelae of child and adolescent abuse: A longitudinal community study. *Child Abuse and Neglect, 20*(8), 709–723. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0145-2134(96)00059-2

Singer, M. I., Anglin, T. M., Song, L. Y., & Lunghofer, L. (1995). Adolescents’ exposure to violence and associated symptoms of psychological trauma. *Journal of the American Medical Association, 273*(6), 477–482. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1001/jama.1995.0352030051036

Steiger, J. H. (1990). Structural model evaluation and modification. *Multivariate Behavioral Research, 25*(2), 173–180. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1207/s15327906mbr2502_4

Stel, R., Jung, K., & Stangier, U. (2011). Efficacy of a two-session program of cognitive restructuring and imagery modification to reduce the feeling of being contaminated in adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse: A pilot study. *Journal of Behavior Therapy and Experimental Psychiatry, 42*(3), 325–329. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jbtep.2011.01.008

Steinberg, A. M., Brymer, M. J., Decker, K. B., & Pynoos, R. S. (2004). The University of California at Los Angeles Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Reaction Index. *Current Psychiatry Reports, 6*(2), 96–100. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11920-004-0048-2

Steinberg, A. M., Brymer, M. J., Kim, S., Briggs, E. C., Ippen, C. G., Ostrowski, S. A., et al. (2013). Psychometric properties of the UCLA PTSD reaction index: Part I. *Journal of Traumatic Stress, 26*, 1–9. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jts.21780

Steinberg, L. (2004). Risk taking in adolescence: What changes, and why? *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, 1021*, 51–58. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1196/annals.1308.005

Stiensmeier-Pelster, J., Schuermann, M., & Duda, K. (2000). *DIKJ—Depressionsinventar für Kinder und Jugendliche*. Handanweisung. Göttingen: Hogrefe.

Tabachnick, B. G., & Fidell, L. S. (2007). *Using multivariate statistics* (5th ed). Boston: Pearson/Allyn & Bacon.