

The Child's Reaction to Traumatic Events Scale (CRTES)

Age Range: 6 -18 Translations: Spanish

Format: child completion or semistructured interview

The Child's Reaction to Traumatic Events Scale (CRTES); Jones, 1994, 1995, 2002) is a revision of the Horowitz Impact of Events Scale (Horowitz, Wilner, & Alvaraz, 1979). The HIES has been used to study children exposed to catastrophic events (Cunningham, Jones, & Yang, 1994; Jones & Ribbe, 1991; Malmquist, 1986; Yule & Williams, 1990). It is a 15 item self-report measure designed to assess psychological responses to stressful life events. Initially modified for children by Jones (1992) (HIES-C), the scale targeted the Intrusion and Avoidance criteria of DSM 3-R and was derived from statements most frequently used by people to describe serious life events (Horowitz et al., 1979).

In a study following Hurricane Andrew using an earlier version of this scale, tests of internal consistency for the Total scale yielded Cronbach alpha of .85 (Jones, Ribbe, Cunningham, 1993), and, in a study of 71 African American children residing in a high crime, low income area, $\alpha = .73$ (Cunningham, et al., 1994). Chronbach's alpha for the Avoidance subscale was .72 (Hurricane Andrew) and .73 (high crime study); for the Intrusion subscale, .84 and .68 respectively. For adolescent residents of a boarding school exposed to a dormitory fire (Jones & Ribbe, 1991), interviewers underwent 51 hours of training in the use of three instruments (DICA-6R-A; HIES-C and STAI). At the end of training, inter-rater reliability averaged .91. In a study of 213 elementary and middle school children exposed to Hurricane Andrew who were interviewed in small groups, Jones et al. (1993) found that the degree of perceived danger and life threat best predicted level of distress as measured by the scale. The Avoidance subscale did not reveal significant differences in these children. The authors suggest a possible reason for the failure of the Avoidance scale: reminders remained rampant and pervasive in the environment.

More recently the CRTES has been used with children exposed to wildfire and residential fires (Jones, Ribbe, & Cunningham, 1994; Jones & Ollendick, 2002). *Jones and Ollendick (2002) examined the impact of residential fire on children and their families. Within the context of their NIMH funded project, additional psychometrics on the CRTES are currently being established. Please contact the first author for more information.* ROC analysis determined that a low distress total score is 0-14; moderate distress, 15-27; and high distress, 28 and higher. A score of 28 or higher is recommended for a diagnosis of PTSD. These criteria should be used in all future work employing this scale. Special thanks is extended to Ken Fletcher, for statistical guidance in determining these criteria.

The most recent version of *the Child's Reaction to Traumatic Events Scale-Revised* (CRTES-Revised) (Jones, Fletcher, & Ribbe, 2002) is a 23 item self report measure designed to assess psychological responses to stressful life events. The scale is being updated for DSM IV to now include arousal as well as avoidance and intrusion

symptoms. The revised CRTES uses a 4 point frequency rating scale: not at all (0); rarely (1); sometimes (3); and often (5)

Since the measure is currently undergoing psychometric evaluation, the author requests that users share their results with his lab.

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Reference:

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Revision of distress levels for the Child's Reactions to Traumatic Events Scale (CRTES-R)

JONES, R.T., FLETCHER, K., & RIBBE, D.R. (2002)

Child's Reaction to Traumatic Events Scales – Revised (CRTES-R)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Recently you experienced _____

Below is a list of comments made by people after stressful life events. Please check each item, indicating how often these comments were true for you **DURING THE PAST SEVEN DAYS**. If they did not occur during that time, please mark the "Not at all" column.

| | Not at all | Rarely | Sometimes | Often |
|--|------------|--------|-----------|-------|
| 1. I thought about it when I didn't mean to. | | | | |
| 2. I stopped letting myself get upset when I thought about it or was reminded of it. | | | | |
| 3. I tried not to remember. | | | | |
| 4. I had trouble falling asleep or staying asleep because pictures or thoughts about it came into my mind. | | | | |
| 5. I had strong feelings about it. | | | | |
| 6. I had dreams about it. | | | | |
| 7. I stayed away from things that reminded me of it. | | | | |
| 8. I felt that it did not happen or that is was | | | | |

- make-believe.
9. I tried not to talk about it.
 10. I kept seeing it over and over in my mind.
 11. Other things kept making me think about it.
 12. I had lots of feelings about it, but I didn't pay attention to them.
 13. I tried not to think about it.
 14. Any reminder brought back feelings about it.
 15. I don't have feelings about it anymore.
 16. It was easy to make me angry and upset.
 17. Loud noises made me jump in surprise.
 18. I would act like it was happening all over again.
 19. I had trouble keeping my mind on what I was doing.
 20. Thinking about it made my heart beat faster.
 21. Thinking about it made it hard for me to breathe.
 22. Thinking about it made me sweat.
 23. I kept checking to make sure nothing else bad would happen.

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**CHILDS REACTION TO TRAUMATIC
EVENTS SCALE- REVISED (CRTES-R)**

**ESCALA INFANTIL REVISADA DE REACCION
ANTE EVENTOS STRAUMATICOS (CRETES-R)**

Nombre

Fecha _____

Recientemente usted vivió _____

Abajo hay una lista de comentarios que hacen las personas a situaciones tensas del vivir. Por favor marque cada ítem indicando cuan frecuentemente estos es verdad para usted **DURANTE LOS ULTIMOS SIETE DIAS**. Si no han ocurrido este ultimo tiempo. Por favor marque la columna NADA.

1. Pensé acerca de eso, aun cuando no tuve la intención.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

2. Dejé de molestarme cuando pensé en ello o me recordé de ello.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

3. Traté de no recordar.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

4. Tuve dificultad en dormirme o en seguir dirimiendo porque me vinieron recuerdos o imágenes a la mente.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

5. Tuve intensos sentimientos acerca de eso.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

6. Tuve sueños acerca de eso.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

7. Me mantuve alejado de cosas que me recordaban de eso.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

8. Sentí que no eso ocurrió o que era simple imaginación.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

9. Traté de no hablar de eso.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

10. Aparecía en mi mente, una y otra vez

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

11. Otras cosas me hacían pensar en eso.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

12. Tuve muchos sentimientos acerca de eso, pero no les presté atención.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

13. Trate de no pensar en ello.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

14. Cualquier recuerdo me traía sentimientos de eso.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

15. Ya no siento nada acerca de eso.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

16. Era fácil alterarme o sentirme enojado por eso

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

17. Los ruidos fuertes me hacían saltar.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

18. Yo actuaría como si eso estuviera ocurriendo nuevamente.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

19. Tuve dificultad en mantener mi mente atenta en lo que estaba haciendo.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

20. Pensar en eso hacia que mi corazón latiera fuerte.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

21. Pensar en ello me dificultaba respirar normalmente.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

22. Pensar en ello me hacia transpirar.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|

23. Me mantenía vigilante y alerta para asegurar que nada malo iba a ocurrir.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Nada | Rara vez | A veces | Muy seguido |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|