

## **Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI)**

**Author(s):** Derogatis (1983)<sup>1</sup>

**Population/Age Group:** 13 years and older

**Purpose:** The BSI provides patient reported data regarding psychological symptoms to help support clinical decision making at intake and during the course of treatment in multiple settings. It is a brief form of the SCL-90.

**Description:** The BSI is a 53-item self-report inventory of adult psychological symptoms. The BSI yields a Global Severity Index and nine subscales including anxiety, depression, hostility, obsessive-compulsive, somatization, interpersonal sensitivity, phobic anxiety, paranoid ideation, and psychoticism. The BSI provides an overview of a patient's symptoms and their intensity at a specific point in time.

Test administration takes less than 10 minutes.

**Scoring and Interpretation:** A clinically significant score can be reached in two ways. The GSI score is greater than or equal to a T score of 63 or any two subscales are greater than or equal to a T score of 63 when compared with the norms for the particular population in question.

**Psychometrics Properties:** Both test-retest and internal consistency reliabilities are shown to be very good for the primary symptom dimensions of the BSI. Several criterion-oriented validity studies have also been completed with this instrument.

**Training Requirements:** Master's in Psychology or Health Specialization Degree

**Contact Information:** [Pearson Assessments](#)  
Pearson Education, Inc 19500 Bulverde Road  
San Antonio, TX 78259-3701

1. Derogatis, L. & Melisaratos, N. (1983). The Brief Symptom Inventory: An introductory report. *Psychological Medicine*, 13, 595-605