

PTSD Checklist – PCL-5

Author(s): Weathers et al. (2013)¹

Population/Age Group: Adults

Purpose: The PCL is a 20-item self-report measure of the DSM-IV symptoms of PTSD.

Description: Typically, it is optimal to assess traumatic event exposure to ensure that a respondent has experienced at least one Criterion A event. Respondents rate each item from 0 ("not at all") to 4 ("extremely") to indicate the degree to which they have been bothered by that particular symptom over the past month.

Scoring and Interpretation: Total scores range from 0-80. The recommended cutoff score is 32 for indicating a diagnosis of PTSD.

Psychometrics Properties: Strong psychometric properties have been shown for internal consistency and test retest reliability.

Training Requirements: None. This resource should be used in an ethical and responsible manner and should be used only for the purpose(s) for which it has demonstrable validity.

Contact Information: This measure was created by staff at the VA National Center for PTSD. To obtain this scale complete the online [request form](#).

1. PCL-5 (6/13/2013) Weathers, Litz, Keane, Palmieri, Marx, & Schnurr -- National Center for PTSD