

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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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				

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

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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2. Dejé de molestarme cuando pensé en ello o me recordé de ello.

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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3. Traté de no recordar.

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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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
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5. Tuve intensos sentimientos acerca de eso.

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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6. Tuve sueños acerca de eso.

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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7. Me mantuve alejado de cosas que me recordaban de eso.

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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8. Sentí que no eso ocurrió o que era simple imaginación.

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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9. Traté de no hablar de eso.

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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10. Aparecía en mi mente, una y otra vez

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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11. Otras cosas me hacían pensar en eso.

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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12. Tuve muchos sentimientos acerca de eso, pero no les presté atención.

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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13. Trate de no pensar en ello.

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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14. Cualquier recuerdo me traía sentimientos de eso.

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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15. Ya no siento nada acerca de eso.

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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16. Era fácil alterarme o sentirme enojado por eso

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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17. Los ruidos fuertes me hacían saltar.

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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18. Yo actuaría como si eso estuviera ocurriendo nuevamente.

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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19. Tuve dificultad en mantener mi mente atenta en lo que estaba haciendo.

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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20. Pensar en eso hacia que mi corazón latiera fuerte.

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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21. Pensar en ello me dificultaba respirar normalmente.

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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22. Pensar en ello me hacia transpirar.

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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23. Me mantenía vigilante y alerta para asegurar que nada malo iba a ocurrir.

Nada	Rara vez	A veces	Muy seguido
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