

Name of Measure: Reynolds Child Depression Scale (RCDS) (Reynolds, 1989)

Purpose of Measure: To assess depressive symptomatology in children

Author(s):

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Reference: Reynolds, W. M. & Graves, A. (1989). Reliability of Children's Reports of Depressive Symptomatology. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, 17(6), 647-655.

Description of measure: The Reynolds Child Depression Scale (RCDS) is a 30-item self-report measure of depression appropriate for children in grades 3 through 6. Items describe depression symptoms as specified by the DSM-III-R diagnosis for major depression and dysthymic disorder. Twenty-nine of the 30 items are clinically defined symptoms of depression. They are scored on a 4-point (1 to 4) Likert-type scale format, ranging from "almost never" to "all the time." The last item consists of 5 "smiley-type" faces ranging from sad to happy (1-5). The RCDS produces a total score (range 30-121) which is a sum of all item responses.

Language availability: English

Translation comments: Not applicable.

Description of Asian population: Thirty-four Asian children out of total sample of 220 children completed the RCDS at two time points. All the children were in grades 3 to 6. They attended an urban inter-city school in California.

Sample characteristics

White	24.1%
Black	33.8%
Asian	15.3%
Hispanic	19.0%
Unknown	1.8%
Male	49.1%
Female	50.9%
Mean age	10.42
S.D.	.99
Grade 3	25%
Grade 4	42%
Grade 5	25%
Grade 6	8%

Norms: RCDS scores were not correlated at a statistically significant level with subject age at either time point.

RCDS Mean Scores

Sample	N	Time 1 Mean	Time 2 Mean	Mean Difference
Total	220	54.60	52.86	1.74
Female	108	55.63	53.23	2.40
Male	112	53.60	52.50	1.10
Grade				
3	55	55.00	53.09	1.91
4	93	54.96	53.91	1.04
5	54	54.17	51.43	2.74
6	18	52.78	51.00	1.78
Race				
White	52	53.21	51.98	1.23
Black	73	55.21	53.77	1.44
Hispanic	41	55.34	53.56	1.78
Asian	33	55.79	52.94	2.85

Gender and ethnic differences in scores non-significant at both time points. Table reproduced with permission under John Wiley & Sons Inc. copyright agreement.

Reliability: The Cronbach alpha coefficient for the RCDS was .88 at Time 1 and .90 at Time 2.

Validity: The RCDS was found to correlate strongly with other self-report ( $r = .68$  to  $.79$ ) and clinical interview ( $r = .76$ ) measures of children's depression (Reynolds, 1989)

Original references: Reynolds, W. M. (1989). Reynolds Child Depression Scale: Odessa, FL: Psychological Assessment Resources.

How to obtain copy of instrument: Contact Psychological Assessment Resources 16204 N. Florida Ave., Lutz, FL 33549 813-968-3003 [www.parinc.com](http://www.parinc.com)