

Name of Measure: Impact of Events Scale (IES) (Horowitz, Wilner, & Alvarez, 1979).

Purpose of Measure: To measure the cognitive and emotional impact of traumatic events

Reference: Sack, W.H., Seeley, J.R., Him, C, Clarke, G.N. (1998). Psychometric properties of the Impact of Events Scale in traumatized Cambodian refugee youth. *Personality & Individual Differences*, 25 (1), 57-67.

Description of Measure: IES is a 15 item measure assessing the frequency with which experiences of “intrusions”, “avoidance”, and emotional numbing related to stressful events were experienced in the last week. A total distress score is calculated by summing all 15 item responses.

Description of Populations: In total, 209 Khmer youths, aged 13-25 years participated in the research, 180 of whom reported having experienced a traumatic event. The sample was 48% female, 52% male. The mean age was 20.1 years (SD =3.4). The participants had lived in the United States for an average of 7.9 years, (SD = 3.5).

Language: English

Translation Comments: The IES was administered verbally with the assistance of an interpreter when necessary.

Reliability: The Cronbach alpha was calculated to be .92

Validity: The three-factor IES structure, identified by Yule (1994), was replicated with the Khmer adolescents. Significant differences in IES item means were found between adolescents with a current Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) diagnosis and those without a PTSD diagnosis. Only on items 6 (had dreams about it) and 8 (felt as if it hadn't happened or wasn't real.) were significant differences not found.

Original Reference: Horowitz, M., Wilner, N.J., & Alvarez, W. (1979). Impact of events scale: A measure of subjective stress. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 41, 209-218.

Other references: Yule, W., Bruggencate, S.T.J., & Joseph, S. (1994). Principal components analysis of the impact of events scales in adolescents who survived a shipping disaster. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 16(5), 685-691.

To learn more about this research: Please contact Dr. Sack at nwsack@attbi.com