

Traumatic Antecedents Questionnaire (TAQ) Manual

Joseph Spinazzola, Ph.D. (Unpublished manuscript)

DESCRIPTION

The TAQ is a 40-item* self-report instrument that gathers information about lifetime experiences in ten domains: (1) competence (2) safety (3) neglect (4) separation from primary caregiver(s) (5) emotional abuse, (6) physical abuse/assault (7) sexual abuse/assault, (8) witnessing (9) other traumas (i.e., impersonal traumas such as natural disasters, and serious accident as well as other undefined experiences), and (10) exposure to drugs and alcohol. The first two domains represent experiences of adaptive functioning, while the latter eight domains measure exposure to traumatic or adverse experiences. Domains are assessed across four distinct age periods: birth to 6 years, 7 to 12 years, 13 to 18 years, and adulthood. For each item, respondents are asked to rate the extent to which they had a particular experience during the corresponding developmental period on a scale from 0 to 3. The TAQ allows calculation of summary scores for each of the ten individual domains, as well as for the four developmental periods.

Scoring:

For each item on the TAQ, respondents are asked to rate applicable developmental periods separately on a scale from 0 to 3, or to indicate “Don’t Know.” Numerical markers represent combined frequency and severity of experience: 0 = “Never or Not at All”; 1 = “Rarely or A Little Bit”; 2 = “Occasionally or Moderately”; 3 = “Often or Very Much”. Summary scoring for the TAQ is complex, and detailed scoring sheets are provided in this packet to facilitate translation of raw item scores into summary scores by domain and by developmental period. In general, higher scores on the two adaptive domains represent greater levels of adaptive functioning, while higher scores on the eight trauma/adverse event domains represent greater exposure. Extensive clinical use of this measure across a variety of settings suggests that particular indicators of concern are (a) low scores on early childhood measures of competence or safety; and (b) presence of multiple forms of trauma during the birth to 6 years developmental period.

Psychometric Properties:

Psychometric properties of the TAQ have not been established, and it is therefore recommended this instrument be utilized solely as a clinical tool and not as a research measure of trauma exposure. Program evaluation data has suggested the utility of the TAQ. In an unpublished study of 70 consecutive admissions to a trauma-specialty outpatient treatment center, scores on the TAQ were significantly related to symptoms of both PTSD and complex trauma (DESNOS). Findings from this study indicated that developmental period acted as a strong predictor of complex PTSD, and that, in particular, cumulative trauma occurring between birth and age six or during adolescence was most strongly associated with complex trauma symptoms. Within these developmental epochs, exposure to sexual, physical and emotional abuse were most strongly associated with DESNOS symptoms. In contrast, only impersonal trauma (e.g., accidents, natural disaster, serious injury) occurring during adulthood was significantly associated with PTSD symptom severity in this clinical sample.

*Note: An earlier, 42-item version of this instrument included a 2-item scale assessing Family Secrets. This scale was dropped due to ceiling effects indicating problems with content validity. Respondents routinely endorsed maximum scores on both items of this scale irrespective of extent of trauma exposure history or type and severity of trauma symptoms, precluding discrimination among respondents on this scale.

TAQ Data Entry Sheet

Instructions

Translate scores from the TAQ into scores on this sheet by circling the appropriate choice, according to the following scoring system:

1. Scores for item 2 are reversed before translation to this sheet: 0 = 3, 1 = 2, 2 = 0, and 3 = 0.
2. For all scores of 0, 1 or "NO" on the TAQ, circle 0 on this sheet.
3. For all scores of 2 on the TAQ, circle 2 on this sheet.
4. For all scores of 3 or "YES" on the TAQ, circle 3 on this sheet.
5. For all scores of "DK" and all unanswered items on the TAQ, circle * on this sheet.

1	0-6	0	2	3	*	10	0-6	0	2	3	*	19	0-6	0	2	3	*	28	0-6	0	2	3	*	37	0-6	0	2	3	*
	7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*
	13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*
	adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*
2 (R)	0-6	0	2	3	*	11	0-6	0	2	3	*	20	0-6	0	2	3	*	29	0-6	0	2	3	*	38	0-6	0	2	3	*
	7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*
	13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*
	adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*
3	0-6	0	2	3	*	12	0-6	0	2	3	*	21	0-6	0	2	3	*	30	0-6	0	2	3	*	39	0-6	0	2	3	*
	7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*
	13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*
	adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*
4	0-6	0	2	3	*	13	0-6	0	2	3	*	22	0-6	0	2	3	*	31	0-6	0	2	3	*	40	0-6	0	2	3	*
	7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*
	13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*
	adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*
5	0-6	0	2	3	*	14	0-6	0	2	3	*	23	0-6	0	2	3	*	32	0-6	0	2	3	*						
	7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*						
	13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*						
	adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*						
6	0-6	0	2	3	*	15	0-6	0	2	3	*	24	0-6	0	2	3	*	33	0-6	0	2	3	*						
	7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*						
	13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*						
	adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*						
7	0-6	0	2	3	*	16	0-6	0	2	3	*	25	0-6	0	2	3	*	34	0-6	0	2	3	*						
	7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*						
	13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*						
	adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*						
8	0-6	0	2	3	*	17	0-6	0	2	3	*	26	0-6	0	2	3	*	35	0-6	0	2	3	*						
	7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*						
	13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*						
	adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*						
9	0-6	0	2	3	*	18	0-6	0	2	3	*	27	0-6	0	2	3	*	36	0-6	0	2	3	*						
	7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*		7-12	0	2	3	*						
	13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*		13-18	0	2	3	*						
	adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*		adult	0	2	3	*						

TAQ Scoring Sheet

Date: ____/____/____

Name: _____ Date completed: ____/____/____

Age: ____ Sex: M F Marital Status: _____ SS#: _____

Telephone: Home (____) ____-____ Work (____) ____-____

Address: _____

Education: _____

Occupation: _____

Instructions

1. Translate scores from the TAQ to the *Data Entry Sheet*. Data should not be entered directly from the TAQ without using the *Data Entry Sheet* and its instructions, because TAQ data must be transformed according to the scoring system.
2. For each item and age category listed below, fill in the corresponding scores from the *Data Entry Sheet*.
3. Calculate the average score for each age group:
 - a. Recode all items scored "1" or "*" to "0" (zero).
 - b. In each "Sub-total" column, add all *non-zero* scores from that age period.
 - b. In the "Score" column, divide the number in the "Sub-total" column by the total number of *non-zero items* for that age period. Thus, in the example below, you would divide the "Sub-total" of 3 for the 0-6 age period by one, because following recoding there is only one non-zero item.
 - c. For any age period where there was an * for one or more items, place an * after the entry in the "Score" column. (This scoring convention highlights missing data, thereby encouraging inspection of original responses for indications of possible sensitive topics, memory disturbances, etc.)
4. Add up the "Score" entries for each age period, and enter this number as the "Total." If there was an * for any data point in that entire category, place a * after the "Total" score.

Example

Age Group		#5	#9	#14	#19	Sub-total	Score
Childhood	0-6	*	0	1	3	3	3*
	7-12	3	2	3	2	10	2.5
	13-18	2	2	0	1	4	2
Adult		0	2	2	0	4	2
Total							9.5*

1. Competence

Age Group		#3	#4	Sub-total	Score
Childhood	0-6				
	7-12				
	13-18				
Adult					
Total					

2. Safety

Age Group		#1	#5	#8	Sub-total	Score
Childhood	0-6					
	7-12					
	13-18					
Adult						
Total						

3. Neglect Remember that Item #2 needs to be reversed scored!

Age Group		#2	#6	#7	#21	#27	Sub-total	Score
Childhood	0-6							
	7-12							
	13-18							
Adult								
Total								

4. Separation

Age Group		#10	#11	#12	#14	Sub-total	Score
Childhood	0-6						
	7-12						
	13-18						
Adult							
Total							

9. Other (Impersonal) Trauma

Age Group		#13	#15	#32	#33	#39	#40	Sub-total	Score
Childhood	0-6								
	7-12								
	13-18								
Adult									
Total									

10. Alcohol and Drugs

Age Group		#25	#26	Sub-total	Score
Childhood	0-6				
	7-12				
	13-18				
Adult					
Total					

TAQ Score Report Sheet

	Childhood			Adulthood	Total
	Young Child (0-6)	School Age (7-12)	Adolescent (13-18)		
Competence	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Safety	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Neglect	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Separation	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Emotional Abuse	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Physical Abuse	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Sexual Abuse	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Witnessing	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other Trauma	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Alcohol and Drugs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____