

Developmental Trauma Disorder (DTD): Clinical & Diagnostic Interview Tools

Two clinician-administered interview tools have been developed by Drs. Julian Ford, Joseph Spinazzola and the DTD Field Trial Study Group:

1. **Developmental Trauma Disorder Structured Interview for Child (DTD SI-C)** intended for administration to children and youth aged 7-18. Designed to be administered to children ages 7-10 in the presence of a parent or primary caregiver; and to pre-adolescents, adolescents ages 11-18 alone or accompanied by a parent/caregiver as clinically appropriate for a given youth.
2. **Developmental Trauma Disorder Structured Interview for Parent/Caregiver (DTD SI- P/C)**

Validation of these measures has been established through the Developmental Trauma Disorder Field Trials. Published results from the first wave of the DTD Field Trials provide strong preliminary support for the psychometric properties of these measures (Ford, Spinazzola, van der Kolk, Grasso, 2018; Spinazzola, van der Kolk, & Ford, 2018; van der Kolk, Ford, & Spinazzola, 2019). Published research from the second wave of the DTD Field Trials replication initial findings and offer strong validation of the DTD construct and its measurement using these diagnostic interview tools (Ford, Spinazzola, van der Kolk, & Chan, 2022; Ford, van der Kolk, & Spinazzola, 2021; Spinazzola, van der Kolk, & Ford, 2021).

Subsequent research on the combined DTD Field Trial dataset has offered further validation of the DTD construct using the DTD-SI instrument. Completed and published studies have provided valuable information regarding the factor structure of DTD (Ford, Shelvin, Karatzias, Charak & Spinazzola, 2022), its differentiation from PTSD (Ford, Charak, Karatzias, Shelvin, & Spinazzola, 2022) as well as the use of the DTD-SI in predictive modelling of youth risk for suicidality and self-harm (Hyland, Karatzias, Ford, Fox & Spinazzola, 2022). Additional studies on the DTD-SI instrument and the DTD Field Trial dataset are underway. This body of research is summarized in a review paper (Ford, 2023) that examines the evolution of the DTD concept and inventories key advances in empirical research on this construct in the decade since publication of a seminal theoretical paper that delineated the need for this diagnosis and illuminated empirical evidence suggestive of its existence (D'Andrea, Ford, Stolbach, Spinazzola, van der Kolk, 2012).

On the basis of this body of published, peer-review research, the DTD-SI tools are now available for general clinical use, as well as continued use for research purposes.

The DTD Field Trial Study Group has been maintaining a registry cataloguing research utilizing the DTD-SI instruments and more generally on the DTD construct and its intersection with other diagnoses, risk trajectories, trauma history profiles, treatment models and clinical sequelae associated with exposure and adaptation to complex trauma. Guidance, collaboration and support for other researchers interested in examining the DTD construct and its measurement may be available, and opportunities for language translation and cultural adaptation of the DTD construct and instrumentation are welcome.

Academics, clinical researchers, and doctoral students interested in examining the DTD construct and utilizing or adapting the DTD instruments for research purposes are encouraged to complete a DTD Research Study Registry form and send to the Co-Principal Investigators of the DTD Field Trial, Drs. Julian Ford (jford@uchc.edu) and Joseph Spinazzola (josephspinazzola@foundationtrust.org).

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