

Computerized Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children

The computerized Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children (C-DISC) is a comprehensive, structured interview that covers 36 mental health disorders for children & adolescents, using DSM-IV criteria.

The DISC is the most widely used and studied mental health interview that has been tested in both clinical and community populations.

Parallel youth and caretaker interviews are available, that are suitable for children aged 9 to 17 years, and for caretakers of 6 to 17 year olds.

One version of the C-DISC is lay interviewer administered, while another is self-administered using computerized voice files. Both produce a series of reports including a diagnostic report that indicates endorsed symptoms, criteria and diagnoses. These reports can be used by a clinician as part of a more thorough assessment.

Uses of the DISC

Aid to clinical assessment

- Instant diagnostic report, prior to examination, allows clinician to focus on problems

Mental health screening

- Schools, residential / foster care, juvenile justice, suicide prevention screens

Diagnostic assessment in

- Settings without psychiatric expertise e.g. pediatric or family practice, emergency rooms

Research

- Inclusion / exclusion criteria for treatment protocols
- Low-cost assessment in large-scale field studies
- Map comorbidity in research samples

Benefits of a Comprehensive Standardized Assessment

- Describe current & changing patient characteristics
- Pointers to unsuspected comorbidity
- Pointers to good / inappropriate practices
- Generate reliable diagnoses for insurance & other reporting purposes
- Assess baseline impairment and severity to measure treatment benefit
- Triage referral to specialized services

Disorders Covered



Anxiety

Agoraphobia
Generalized anxiety
Panic
Separation Anxiety
Social Phobia
Specific Phobia
Post-traumatic stress



Mood

Major Depression
Mania
Hypomania
Dysthymia



Behavior

Attention deficit /
Hyperactivity
Obsessive Compulsive
Oppositional Defiant
Conduct Disorder



Other

Anorexia Nervosa
Bulimia Nervosa
Elimination Disorders
Pica
Schizophrenia
Selective Mutism
Tic Disorders
Trichotillomania



Substance Use

Alcohol Abuse / Dependence
Marijuana Abuse / Dependence
Nicotine Dependence
Other Substance Abuse / Dependence

Versions of the DISC

English Generic C-DISC 4 for Windows

- An epidemiological instrument that has a past year, past month (current diagnosis) and optional whole life, time frame of enquiry.
- Extensive reliability data available
- Administered by a lay interviewer
- Parallel youth and caretaker interviews.

Spanish Generic C-DISC 4 for Windows

- Spanish translation of the above instrument.

Voice DISC 4 (youth)

- Self administered interview using automated voice files
- Based upon the Present State – youth interview (has a 'current' time frame of enquiry)
- Reliability data currently being collected

Present State C-DISC 4 for Windows

- A 'current' time frame of enquiry based upon DSM-IV requirements.
- Reliability data currently being collected
- Administered by a lay interviewer
- Parallel youth and caretaker interviews

Related Instruments

DISC Predictive Scales

- Brief diagnostic screening tool

DISC Symptom Scales

- Continuous measure of all depression / anxiety symptoms

Instruments in Development

Young Adult DISC

Young Child DISC

Quick DISC

Teacher DISC

DISC Translations

DISC translations currently in development include:

German	Chinese	Japanese
Dutch	Icelandic	

DISC References

Shaffer, D., Fisher, P., Lucas, C., Dulcan, M., & Schwab-Stone, M. (2000).

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Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry 35, 878-888.

Contacts

Further information regarding the psychometric properties, ordering and any other concerns related to the DISC may be obtained by contacting the DISC Development Group:

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