

Adverse Lifetime Events
Turner et al., 2013

Stressful life events are common challenges to character and coping and a frequent theme in expressive writing. The Life Paths measure is adapted from the National Survey for Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV; Turner et al., 2013). The original measure contains 16 items, of which we chose 11 to best suit our target population.

Reliability & validity: Because experiencing one adversity (such as a fire) does not necessarily indicate increased likelihood of another (such as an illness), we follow the standard for this type of measure and no internal consistency is reported. The scale is correlated with related constructs such as financial strain.

Scoring: An answer of "yes" is assigned a value of 1, while an answer of "no" is assigned a value of 0. Answers are then summed, with a higher score indicating more exposure to non-violent adversity over the lifetime.

Citation: Turner, H. A., Shattuck, A., Hamby, S., & Finkelhor, D. (2013). Community disorder, victimization exposure, and mental health in a national sample of youth. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 54(2), 258-275. doi: 10.13140/RG.2.1.3842.5762

Life Paths version: Hamby, S., Grych, J., & Banyard, V. L. (2015). *Life Paths measurement packet: Finalized scales*. Sewanee, TN: Life Paths Research Program. <http://www.lifepathsresearch.org/strengths-measures/>

Now I'd like to ask you about some experiences that you may have had. Some of these things happen to most people at one time or another, while some happen to only a few people. I'd like to know about things that have happened to you in your lifetime.

1. In your whole life, were you ever in a very bad fire, flood, tornado, hurricane, earthquake or other disaster? This would be a time that your home was damaged and you might have had to live somewhere else for a while.
Yes 1
No 0
2. Did you ever have a very bad accident or illness (for example, at home, school, or in a car) where you had to go to the hospital and stay at least two nights? Has that ever happened?
Yes 1
No 0
3. Has someone you were really close to ever had a very bad accident or illness where they had to spend at least two nights in the hospital? This would be someone important to you, like a parent, brother or sister, or best friend.
Yes 1
No 0
4. Did you ever have anyone close to you die because of an illness or an accident?
Yes 1
No 0
5. Did you ever have to do a school year over again?
Yes 1
No 0
6. Have there ever been any times when your mother, father, or guardian lost a job or couldn't find work?
Yes 1
No 0
7. At any time in your life did a parent, step-parent, or guardian ever have to go to prison or jail?
Yes 1
No 0
8. Has there ever been a time that a member of your family drank or used drugs so often that it caused problems?
Yes 1
No 0
9. Has there ever been a time when your parents or step-parents were arguing, yelling, and angry at one another a lot of the time?
Yes 1
No 0

10. Has someone close to you ever tried to kill him or herself on purpose (like by shooting or cutting him or herself, or taking too many pills or drugs)?

Yes 1

No 0

11. Did a parent or someone who takes care of you ever have to leave the country to fight in a war and had to be away for several months or longer?

Yes 1

No 0