

# Children's Perception of Interparental Conflict Scale (CPIC)

48-item self-report measure for 9–17-year-olds

The Children's Perception of Interparental Conflict Scale (CPIC) is a 48-item self-report measure designed for children and young people aged 9–17 years, to assess their views of parental conflict and child adjustment. The original version of the CPIC assessed here includes subscales aimed at assessing frequency, intensity, resolution, content, perceived threat, coping efficacy, self-blame, triangulation and stability.

	Internal consistency		Test-retest reliability	Validity	Sensitivity to change
Psychometric features	✓ (Scale)	✓ (Subscale)	✓	?	?

	Brevity	Availability	Ease of Scoring	Used in the UK
Implementation features	×	✓	✓	✓

\*Please note that our assessment of this measure is based solely on the English version of the CPIC. Translated versions of this measure were not assessed and therefore it should not be assumed that they would receive the same rating.

## What is this document?

This assessment of the Children's Perception of Interparental Conflict Scale (CPIC) has been produced by the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) as part of guidance on selecting measures relating to parental conflict and its impact on children. To read the full guidance report and download assessments of other measures, visit: <https://www.eif.org.uk/resource/measuring-parental-conflict-and-its-impact-on-child-outcomes>



- Some of the CPIC items contain sensitive content (for example 'my parents have pushed or shoved each other during an argument' and 'when my parents argue I worry that one of them will get hurt'). If an individual raises issues around interparental violence, the appropriate safeguarding procedures should be put in place.
- According to the developers, the CPIC can be used with children from separated or divorced families, but in these cases the wording of the questions (that is, current or past conflict) should be made explicit.
- We found insufficient evidence to establish that the CPIC is a valid measure which is sensitive to change in short interventions.

# About the measure

 <p><b>Author(s)/ developer(s)</b></p> <p>Grych, J.H., Seid, M., &amp; Fincham, F.D.</p>	 <p><b>Publication year for the original version of the measure</b></p> <p>1992</p>	 <p><b>Type of measure</b></p> <p>Child self-report.</p>
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**Outcome(s) assessed** This measure has been designed to assess children's views of multiple dimensions of parental conflict and child adjustment.

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**Subscales** Originally, the measure was comprised of nine subscales: frequency, intensity, resolution, content, perceived threat, coping efficacy, self-blame, triangulation and stability.

The developers derived three broad-factor scales using Exploratory Factor Analysis and Confirmatory Factor Analysis:

1. **Conflict** Properties reflects how often conflicts occur and the level of hostility and resolution. It is comprised of the frequency, intensity and resolution subscales.
2. **Threat** indicates the degree to which children feel threatened and able to cope when marital conflict occurs. It is comprised of the threat and coping efficacy subscales.
3. **Self-Blame** assesses the frequency of child-related conflict and the degree to which children blame themselves for marital conflict. It is comprised of the content and self-blame subscales.

The **stability** and **triangulation** subscales can be used as independent subscales.

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**Purpose/primary use** This measure was originally designed to assess particular dimensions of marital conflict that might lead to child adjustment problems, and to obtain children’s perspective on the degree of conflict to which they are exposed. The developers’ motivation for developing this measure was based on the fact that parent-report measures often underestimate children’s exposure to conflict.

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**Mode of administration** This measure can be completed in person or online.

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<b>Example item</b>	'I never see my parents arguing or disagreeing.'
<b>Target population</b>	This measure was originally developed for children aged 9–17 years. Further studies have shown that the measure is also appropriate for assessing specific aspects of parental conflict in late adolescents and emerging adults, aged 18–25 years (Bickham & Fiese, 1997; Moura et al., 2010; Reese-Weber & Hesson-McInnis, 2008).
<b>Response format</b>	3-point Likert scale (1 = 'True', 2 = 'Sort of True', 3 = 'False').
<b>Strengths &amp; limitations</b>	<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CPIC is a reliable measure.</li> <li>• It assesses the child's perception of parental conflict; an important outcome that is rarely assessed by other measures.</li> <li>• The CPIC is freely available and easy to score, with scoring instructions found in the paper by Grych et al. (1992).</li> </ul> <p>Limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We found insufficient evidence to establish that the CPIC is a valid measure which is sensitive to change in short interventions.</li> <li>• The CPIC has 48 items and may require more than 15 minutes to complete.</li> </ul>
<b>Link</b>	N/A
<b>Contact details</b>	John Grych: <a href="mailto:john.grych@marquette.edu">john.grych@marquette.edu</a>
<b>Copyright</b>	Based on our review of the evidence, it appears that the developers did not provide information on copyright. The key reference (included below) should be cited when using the measure.
<b>Key reference(s)</b>	Grych, J.H., Seid, M., & Fincham, F.D. (1992). Assessing marital conflict from the child's perspective: The Children's Perception of Interparental Conflict Scale. <i>Child Development</i> , 63, 558–572.

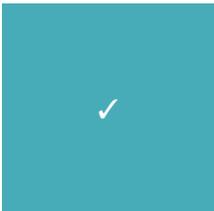
# Psychometric features in detail

## Internal consistency



Three factor analytically derived subscales (Conflict Properties, Threat, Self-Blame) were assessed in the original paper (Grych et al., 1992). Alpha coefficients were computed, and each subscale demonstrated good internal consistency across samples, with all value greater than 0.70. This study was conducted with one sample of 222 (124 boys, 98 girls) fourth- and fifth-grade children (M = 129 months, SD = 15.6 months) and a sample of 114 (52 boys, 62 girls) fifth graders (M = 131 months, SD = 6.85 months) in the US.

## Test-retest reliability



In the original paper (Grych et al., 1992), test-retest correlations over two weeks obtained for a small sample of children (n = 44) were measured for the three factor analytically derived subscales: Conflict Properties = 0.70; Threat = 0.68; and Self-Blame = 0.76.

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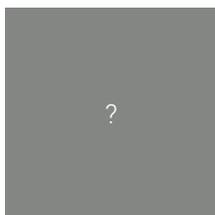
**Validity**

From our review, we found some evidence supporting that the CPIC has good validity coefficients. However, this evidence is not sufficient for us to conclude that the CPIC is a valid measure.

In the original paper (Grych et al., 1992), the developers evaluated CPIC against two well-established measures of parent-reported interparental conflict, the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS; Straus, 1979) and the O’Leary Porter Scale (OPS; Porter & O’Leary, 1980). Since CTS and OPS assess the frequency and intensity of marital discord, the developers hypothesised that the CPIC subscale describing frequency, intensity and resolution (‘Conflict Properties’) should have been most strongly associated with such measures. The developers reported that the scale was significantly related to the OPS and the CTS, and that the Pearson coefficients were moderate ( $r = 0.30$  and  $r = 0.39$  respectively). Such moderate correlations are justified by the fact that, unlike CPIC, such measures do not assess child adjustment and are completed by parents and not by the child.

CPIC’s validity was also evaluated by examining whether children’s perceptions of conflict were related to children’s adjustment. Correlations were computed between the CPIC subscales and the Aggression and Depression subscales of the Child Behaviour Checklist (a 113-item parent report measure designed to assess behavioural and emotional problems in children), teacher/peer report of externalising behaviour, teacher/peer report of internalising behaviour, and the Children’s Depression Inventory. The authors reported that the Conflict Properties subscale was moderately correlated with externalising behaviours (Aggression subscale from CBCL, boys  $r = 0.30$  girls  $r = 0.26$ ; teacher/peer report of externalising behaviour, boys  $r = 0.20$  girls  $r = 0.27$ ). The Threat subscale was reported to be correlated with internalising behaviours (CDI boys  $r = 0.50$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ; girls  $r = 0.41$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Similarly, the Self-Blame subscale was reported to be correlated with internalising behaviours (CDI boys  $r = 0.57$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ; girls  $r = 0.32$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Although such correlations can be used to support the validity of the CPIC, they are not sufficient to establish that the measure is valid.

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**Sensitivity to change**

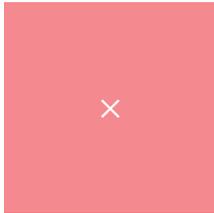
From our review, we did not find evidence about the sensitivity to change of the CPIC.

# Implementation features in detail

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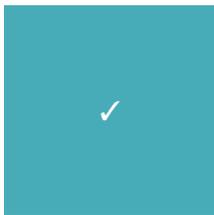
## Brevity

This measure has 48 items.



## Availability

As far as we know, there does not seem to be a cost associated with the use of the CPIC. The measure, moreover, does not require a clinical licence. It is available in the original paper (Grych et al., 1992).

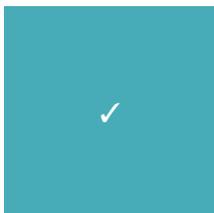


## Ease of scoring

The CPIC has simple scoring instructions involving basic calculations. It does not need to be scored by someone with specific training or qualifications. Scoring instructions can be found in the original paper (Grych et al., 1992).

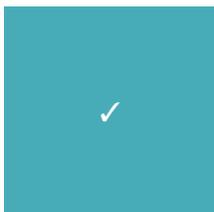
Higher scores indicate increasingly negative forms of conflict or appraisal.

It is not clear if there is any information about the cut-offs of the CPIC for the UK population; there are, however, cut-offs for the US population.



## Used in the UK

From our review, it appears that this measure has been used in at least four academic studies conducted in the UK (Grych et al., 2003; Harold et al., 1997; Harold et al., 2007; Lauren et al., 2003).



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<b>Language(s)</b>	The CPIC is available in English but as far as we know, the developers did not translate this measure into other languages. The measure has, however, been translated into German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Turkish by people other than the developers.
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## Of potential interest...

- If you want to use the measure, you might want to assess the reliability and validity of CPIC in your sample to make sure they are adequate.
- Even though this measure was developed for children aged 9–17 years old, it was initially assessed using a sample of 9–12-year-olds (Grych et al., 1992). Further studies have assessed the measure using samples of adolescents and young adults aged 14–25 years old (Moura et al., 2010). No relevant study has assessed the measure using a sample of 13-year-olds.

## References

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