

Children's Global Assessment Scale

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Adaptation of the Adult Global Assessment Scale (Robert L. Spitzer, M.D.; Miriam Gibbon, M.S.W.; Jean Endicott, Ph.D.)

Specified time period: 1 month

100-91	DOING VERY WELL	Superior functioning in all areas (at home, at school and with peers), involved in a range of activities and has many interests (e.g., has hobbies or participates in extracurricular activities or belongs to an organised group such as Scouts, etc.). Likeable, confident, everyday worries never get out of hand. Doing well in school. No symptoms.
90-81	DOING WELL	Good functioning in all areas. Secure in family, school, and with peers. There may be transient difficulties and "everyday" worries that occasionally get out of hand (e.g. mild anxiety associated with an important exam, occasionally "blow-ups" with siblings, parents or peers).
80-71	DOING ALL RIGHT —MINOR IMPAIRMENT	No more than slight impairment in functioning at home, at school, or with peers. Some disturbance of behaviour or emotional distress may be present in response to life stresses (e.g., parental separations, deaths, birth of a sib) but these are brief and interference with functioning is transient, such children are only minimally disturbing to others and are not considered deviant by those who know them.
70-61	SOME PROBLEMS —IN ONE AREA ONLY	Some difficulty in a single area, but generally functioning pretty well, (e.g., sporadic or isolated antisocial acts, such as occasionally playing hooky petty theft; consistent minor difficulties with school work, mood changes of brief duration, fears and anxieties which do not lead to gross avoidance behaviour; self-doubts). Has some meaningful interpersonal relationships. Most people who do not know the child well would not consider him/her deviant but those who do know him/her well might express concern.
60-51	SOME NOTICEABLE PROBLEMS —IN MORE THAN ONE AREA	Variable functioning with sporadic difficulties or symptoms in several but not all social areas. Disturbance would be apparent to those who encounter the child in a dysfunctional setting or time but not to those who see the child in other settings.
50-41	OBVIOUS PROBLEMS —MODERATE IMPAIRMENT IN MOST AREAS OR SEVERE IN ONE AREA.	Moderate degree of interference in functioning in most social areas or severe impairment functioning in one area, such as might result from for example, suicidal preoccupations and ruminations, school refusal and other forms of anxiety, obsessive rituals major conversion symptoms, frequent anxiety attacks, frequent episodes of aggressive or other antisocial behaviour with some preservation of meaningful social relationships.
40-31	SERIOUS PROBLEMS —MAJOR IMPAIRMENT IN SEVERAL AREAS AND UNABLE TO FUNCTION IN ONE AREA	Major impairment in functioning in several areas and unable to function in one of these areas, i.e., disturbed at home, at school, with peers, or in the society at large, e.g., persistent aggression without clear instigation; markedly withdrawn and isolated behaviour due to either mood or thought disturbance, suicidal attempts with clear lethal intent. Such children are likely to require special schooling and/or hospitalisation or withdrawal from school (but this is not a sufficient criterion for inclusion in this category).

30-21 **SEVERE PROBLEMS**—UNABLE TO FUNCTION IN ALMOST ALL SITUATIONS.

Unable to function in almost all areas, e.g., stays at home, in ward or in bed all day without taking part in social activities OR severe impairment in reality testing OR serious impairment in communication (e.g., sometimes incoherent or inappropriate).

20-11 **VERY SEVERELY IMPAIRED**—CONSIDERABLE SUPERVISION IS REQUIRED FOR SAFETY.

Needs considerable supervision to prevent hurting others or self, e.g., frequently violent, repeated suicide attempts OR to maintain personal hygiene! OR gross impairment in all forms of communication, e.g., severe abnormalities in verbal and gestural communication, marked social aloofness, stupor, etc.

10-1 **EXTREMELY IMPAIRED**—CONSTANT SUPERVISION IS REQUIRED FOR SAFETY.

Needs constant supervision (24-hour care) due to severely aggressive or self-destructive behaviour or gross impairment in reality testing, communication, cognition, affect, or personal hygiene.

SUMMARY DECILE DESCRIPTIONS FOR CGAS:

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60-51 SOME NOTICEABLE PROBLEMS—IN MORE THAN ONE AREA

50-41 OBVIOUS PROBLEMS—MODERATE IMPAIRMENT IN MOST AREAS OR SEVERE IN ONE AREA

40-31 SERIOUS PROBLEMS—MAJOR IMPAIRMENT IN SEVERAL AREAS AND UNABLE TO FUNCTION IN ONE AREA

30-21 SEVERE PROBLEMS—UNABLE TO FUNCTION IN ALMOST ALL SITUATIONS

20-11 VERY SEVERELY IMPAIRED—SO IMPAIRED THAT CONSIDERABLE SUPERVISION IS REQUIRED FOR SAFETY

10-1 EXTREMELY IMPAIRED—SO IMPAIRED THAT CONSTANT SUPERVISION IS REQUIRED FOR SAFETY