

Description

The Combat Exposure Scale (CES) is a 7-item self-report measure that assesses wartime stressors experienced by combatants. Items are rated on a 5-point frequency (1 = “no” or “never” to 5 = “more than 50 times”), 5-point duration (1 = “never” to 5 = “more than 6 months”), 4-point frequency (1 = “no” to 4 = “more than 12 times”) or 4-point degree of loss (1 = “no one” to 4 = “more than 50%”) scale.

Respondents are asked to respond based on their exposure to various combat situations, such as firing rounds at the enemy and being on dangerous duty. The total CES score (ranging from 0 to 41) is calculated by using a sum of weighted scores, which can be classified into 1 of 5 categories of combat exposure ranging from “light” to “heavy.” The CES was developed to be easily administered and scored and is useful in both research and clinical settings.

Source: United States Department of Veterans Affairs website

CES

Please circle the number above the answer that best describes your experience

1) Did you ever go on combat patrols or have other dangerous duty?

1	2	3	4	5
No	1-3X	4-12x	13-50x	51+times

2) Were you ever under enemy fire?

1	2	3	4	5
Never	<1 month	1-3 months	4-6 months	7 mos or more

3) Were you ever surrounded by the enemy?

1	2	3	4	5
No	1-2X	3-12x	13-25x	26+times

4) What percentage of the soldiers in your unit were killed (KIA), wounded or missing in action (MIA)?

1	2	3	4	5
None	1-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76% or more

5) How often did you fire rounds at the enemy?

1	2	3	4	5
Never	1-2X	3-12x	13-50x	51 or more

6) How often did you see someone hit by incoming or outgoing rounds?

1	2	3	4	5
Never	1-2X	3-12x	13-50x	51 or more

7) How often were you in danger of being injured or killed (i.e., being pinned down, overrun, ambushed, near miss, etc.)?

1	2	3	4	5
Never	1-2X	3-12x	13-50x	51 or more

Keane, T.M., Fairbank, J.A., Caddell, J.M., Zimering, R.T., Taylor, K.L. & Mora, C.A. (1989)

COMBAT EXPOSURE SCALE SCORING SHEET

Answers (raw scores) on the Combat Exposure Scale can range from 1 to 5. However, the scoring of the items requires the conversions described below:

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-------|---|
| (1) | SUBTRACT 1 FROM THE RAW SCORE AND MULTIPLY BY 2
(e.g., a raw score of 4 becomes a converted score of 6). | _____ | 1 |
| (2) | SUBTRACT 1 FROM THE RAW SCORE
(e.g., a raw score of 4 becomes a converted score of 3). | _____ | 2 |
| (3) | *IF THE RAW SCORE IS BETWEEN 1 AND 4:
SUBTRACT 1 FROM THE RAW SCORE AND MULTIPLY BY 2
(e.g., a raw score of 4 becomes a converted score of 6).
*IF THE RAW SCORE IS 5:
SUBTRACT 2 FROM THE RAW SCORE AND MULTIPLY BY 2
(e.g., a raw score of 5 becomes a converted score of 6). | _____ | 3 |
| (4) | *IF THE RAW SCORE IS BETWEEN 1 AND 4:
SUBTRACT 1 FROM THE RAW SCORE
(e.g., a raw score of 4 becomes a converted score of 3).
*IF THE RAW SCORE IS 5:
SUBTRACT 2 FROM THE RAW SCORE
(e.g., a raw score of 5 becomes a converted score of 3). | _____ | 4 |
| (5) | SUBTRACT 1 FROM THE RAW SCORE
(e.g., a raw score of 4 becomes a converted score of 3). | _____ | 5 |
| (6) | SUBTRACT 1 FROM THE RAW SCORE AND MULTIPLY BY 2
(e.g., a raw score of 4 becomes a converted score of 6). | _____ | 6 |
| (7) | SUBTRACT 1 FROM THE RAW SCORE AND MULTIPLY BY 2
(e.g., a raw score of 4 becomes a converted score of 6). | _____ | 7 |

ADD ALL CONVERTED SCORES TO OBTAIN A TOTAL SCORE:

TOTAL

The total exposure to combat score can be categorized according to the following scale:

1 = 0-8 light

2 = 9-16 light - moderate

3 = 17-24 moderate

4 = 25-32 moderate - heavy

5 = 33-41 heavy