

Table 1. Brief Definitions of Stressful Life Event Categories*

Category	Definition
Loss Dimension	
Death	Must have a rating of high moderate or severe in relation to the loss; lower-rated death-related loss was placed in the lesser loss category
Respondent-initiated separation	Same definition as the other-initiated separation category except that the separation is truly by the subject's initiative or mutual consent; the separation must be long term
Other key loss	All other loss events rated at least high moderate
Lesser loss	Any event (including death) loss rating with a level of severity of low moderate or lower
Humiliation Dimension	
Other-initiated separation	A separation from a spouse or partner or a falling out, quarreling, or rift in a relationship involving a close tie† with a reasonable inference that the separation would be permanent or that the rift with the close tie would last several months; the separation or estrangement must have been either initiated by the other person or "forced" by circumstances (such as in response to infidelity or marked violence)
Other's delinquency	Delinquent behavior of a child or a criminal act committed by a close tie
Put down	Rejection or direct verbal or physical attack by a close tie, a person of "authority," or any other person if the put down is highly public; outrageous or markedly irresponsible, upsetting behavior by a close tie or biological family member that could be humiliating or threaten a core role; all rapes; events in which the subject brought about the put down if the subject would feel marked shame, personal failure, or humiliation as a consequence
Entrapment Dimension	
Long-term sustained entrapment	An event that matches in severity ongoing serious difficulties and further serves to prove that circumstances will persist or get worse, with little or no possibility that a resolution can be achieved
Long-term worsened entrapment	An event that leads to a worsening of an ongoing, less serious difficulty of at least 6 mo duration
Failed positive event	An event that suggests that a fresh start went disastrously wrong within 1-2 wk, leaving the person stuck in a situation as bad as or worse than before with seemingly no way forward

*Note that the danger dimension does not have any categories.

†Close tie is defined typically as a spouse/partner, boyfriend/girlfriend, parent/parentlike figure, child, confidant, or close friend. Siblings and other close relatives (including those by marriage) would be included for the other-initiated separation and respondent-initiated separation categories if accompanied by a clear element of rejection and if there was no subject-initiated attempt to reconcile.

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