

Self-Report of Close Friends-Version III

Year 14

Fast Track Project Technical Report

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Citation

Instrument

O'Donnell, J., Hawkins, J.D., & Abbott, R.D. (1995). Predicting serious delinquency and substance use among aggressive boys. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 63, 529-537.

Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group (CPPRG). (1998). *Self-Report of Close Friends*. Available from the Fast Track Project website, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

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Report

Sandoval, J.M. (2011). *Self-Report of Close Friends-Version III* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project website, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Rains, C. (2004). *Self-Report of Close Friends-Revised* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project website, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Schimmel, K. (2001). *Self-Report of Close Friends* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project website, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Data Sources

Unscored: C14BN

Scored: CCV14

I. Scale Description

The Self Report of Close Friends-Version III measure was adapted from an instrument developed for the Seattle Social Development Project (O'Donnell, Hawkins, & Abbott, 1995). The Fast Track Project original version of this measure was added to the child instrument battery in study year 8. The measure assesses characteristics of students' best friends' relationships. In year 8 of the Fast Track Project, students were asked to identify two best friends and answer questions regarding thoughts and feelings about the friend, commitment to the friend, and behaviors by the friend including delinquency, substance use, school motivation and parental attitudes toward the friend. Students were also asked to answer questions about these characteristics for their peer group in general.

In year 9 of the Fast Track Project, the measure was revised and used in all years thereafter. Instead of

asking about the characteristics for the child’s peer group, the child is now asked about his/her third best friend. The revised version contains a total of 84 questions. The child is asked to answer 28 questions about each best friend, such as “How do you know your best friend,” “Do you enjoy spending time with this person,” and “Have the two of you ever sold drugs.” The same questions are repeated for each friend.

In year 14, the questionnaire was modified in order to remove questions related to school and relations with Police. Also, questions regarding marijuana and drug use were split, resulting in individual items. Consequently, the scales created in year 14 are fundamentally different than those used in years 13 and before. Longitudinal analyses of these scales are not possible beyond year 13, although scales for years 13 and 14, are comparable.

II. Report Sample

This report contains analyses on data collected on cohort one of the high-risk Control sample (n=155) and the Normative sample (n=387, N=463 with overlap) from the fourteenth year of the study.

Of these, 122 are missing all data, including 69 from the Normative group (11 from Durham, 23 from Nashville, 20 from Pennsylvania, and 15 from Washington), and 52 from the Control group (8 from Durham, 19 from Nashville, 9 from Pennsylvania, and 16 from Washington), with overlap between the Normative and Control groups. None of the missing data were used in the analyses.

III. Scaling

The items in this instrument can be grouped to assess four different constructs of children’s friendships for their first, second, and third best friends (Bonding, Deviance and Substance Abuse, Substance Abuse, and Deviant Activities). In addition, each of these constructs is also assessed across all three friendships for four total scores: Total Bonding, Total Deviance and Substance Abuse, Total Substance Abuse, and Total Deviant Activities.

The individual scales for the items vary; a number of questions use yes/no responses, while other questions use scales such as 1 (“Very Much”) to 4 (“Not at All”). Because of this variation in scaling, items used in the scales were standardized; these items have a “z” added to the item name to indicate that they were standardized. In addition, a number of items were reversed-scored in order to indicate high scores for the scales; these items have an “R” added to the item name to indicate that the item was reversed-scored.

Three new dichotomous variables (CCVxGN1, CCVxGN2, and CCVxGN3) were created to be able to examine whether the students’ best friends were of the same sex or of the opposite sex. These variables were not included in any of the scales. Additionally a final question in the instrument assesses whether the nominated best friend is also a romantic partner.

Scale Name	Items in Scale
Bonding-1st Best Friend (CCV14BONDING1)	C14BN2_1Rz C14BN3_1Rz C14BN4_1Rz C14BN5_1Rz C14BN6_1Rz
Bonding-2nd Best Friend (CCV14BONDING2)	C14BN2_2Rz C14BN3_2Rz C14BN4_2Rz C14BN5_2Rz C14BN6_2Rz
Bonding-3rd Best Friend (CCV14BONDING3)	C14BN2_3Rz C14BN3_3Rz C14BN4_3Rz C14BN5_3Rz C14BN6_3Rz
Deviance and Substance Abuse -1st Best Friend (CCV14DEV_SUB1)	C14BN7_1Rz C14BN8a_1Rz C14BN8b_1Rz C14BN8c_1Rz C14BN8d_1Rz C14BN8e_1Rz C14BN8f_1Rz C14BN8g_1Rz C14BN8h_1Rz C14BN8i_1Rz C14BN8j_1Rz C14BN8k_1Rz C14BN9a_1Rz C14BN9b_1Rz C14BN9c_1Rz C14BN9d_1Rz C14BN9e_1Rz C14BN9f_1Rz C14BN9g_1Rz C14BN9h_1Rz C14BN9i_1Rz

	C14BN9j_1Rz C14BN9k_1Rz
Deviance and Substance Abuse -2nd Best Friend (CCV14DEV_SUB2)	C14BN7_2Rz C14BN8a_2Rz C14BN8b_2Rz C14BN8c_2Rz C14BN8d_2Rz C14BN8e_2Rz C14BN8f_2Rz C14BN8g_2Rz C14BN8h_2Rz C14BN8i_2Rz C14BN8j_2Rz C14BN8k_2Rz C14BN9a_2Rz C14BN9b_2Rz C14BN9c_2Rz C14BN9d_2Rz C14BN9e_2Rz C14BN9f_2Rz C14BN9g_2Rz C14BN9h_2Rz C14BN9i_2Rz C14BN9j_2Rz C14BN9k_2Rz
Deviance and Substance Abuse -3rd Best Friend (CCV14DEV_SUB3)	C14BN7_3Rz C14BN8a_3Rz C14BN8b_3Rz C14BN8c_3Rz C14BN8d_3Rz C14BN8e_3Rz C14BN8f_3Rz C14BN8g_3Rz C14BN8h_3Rz C14BN8i_3Rz C14BN8j_3Rz C14BN8k_3Rz C14BN9a_3Rz C14BN9b_3Rz C14BN9c_3Rz C14BN9d_3Rz C14BN9e_3Rz C14BN9f_3Rz C14BN9g_3Rz C14BN9h_3Rz C14BN9i_3Rz C14BN9j_3Rz C14BN9k_3Rz
Substance Abuse-1st Best Friend (CCV14SUBSTANCE1)	C14BN8a_1Rz C14BN8b_1Rz C14BN8c_1Rz C14BN8d_1Rz C14BN9a_1Rz C14BN9b_1Rz C14BN9c_1Rz C14BN9d_1Rz
Substance Abuse-2nd Best Friend (CCV14SUBSTANCE2)	C14BN8a_2Rz C14BN8b_2Rz C14BN8c_2Rz C14BN8d_2Rz C14BN9a_2Rz C14BN9b_2Rz C14BN9c_2Rz C14BN9d_2Rz
Substance Abuse-3rd Best Friend (CCV14SUBSTANCE3)	C14BN8a_3Rz C14BN8b_3Rz C14BN8c_3Rz C14BN8d_3Rz C14BN9a_3Rz C14BN9b_3Rz C14BN9c_3Rz C14BN9d_3Rz
Deviant Activity-1st Best Friend (CCV14DEVIANCE1)	C14BN7_1Rz C14BN8e_1Rz C14BN8f_1Rz C14BN8g_1Rz C14BN8h_1Rz C14BN8i_1Rz C14BN8j_1Rz C14BN8k_1Rz C14BN9e_1Rz C14BN9f_1Rz C14BN9g_1Rz C14BN9h_1Rz C14BN9i_1Rz C14BN9j_1Rz C14BN9k_1Rz
Deviant Activity-2nd Best Friend (CCV14DEVIANCE2)	C14BN7_2Rz C14BN8e_2Rz C14BN8f_2Rz C14BN8g_2Rz C14BN8h_2Rz C14BN8i_2Rz C14BN8j_2Rz C14BN8k_2Rz C14BN9e_2Rz C14BN9f_2Rz C14BN9g_2Rz C14BN9h_2Rz C14BN9i_2Rz C14BN9j_2Rz C14BN9k_2Rz
Deviant Activity-3rd Best Friend (CCV14DEVIANCE3)	C14BN7_3Rz C14BN8e_3Rz C14BN8f_3Rz C14BN8g_3Rz C14BN8h_3Rz C14BN8i_3Rz C14BN8j_3Rz C14BN8k_3Rz C14BN9e_3Rz C14BN9f_3Rz C14BN9g_3Rz C14BN9h_3Rz C14BN9i_3Rz C14BN9j_3Rz C14BN9k_3Rz

The four other scales that measure the student's relationships across all of his/her friends are as follows:

Total Scale Name	Items in Scale
Total Bonding Across Friends (CCV14BONDING)	C14BN2_1Rz C14BN3_1Rz C14BN4_1Rz C14BN5_1Rz C14BN6_1Rz C14BN2_2Rz C14BN3_2Rz C14BN4_2Rz C14BN5_2Rz C14BN6_2Rz C14BN2_3Rz C14BN3_3Rz C14BN4_3Rz C14BN5_3Rz C14BN6_3Rz
Total Deviance and Substance Abuse Across Friends (CCV14DEV_SUB)	C14BN7_1Rz C14BN8a_1Rz C14BN8b_1Rz C14BN8c_1Rz C14BN8d_1Rz C14BN8e_1Rz C14BN8f_1Rz C14BN8g_1Rz C14BN8h_1Rz C14BN8i_1Rz C14BN8j_1Rz C14BN8k_1Rz C14BN9a_1Rz C14BN9b_1Rz C14BN9c_1Rz C14BN9d_1Rz C14BN9e_1Rz C14BN9f_1Rz C14BN9g_1Rz C14BN9h_1Rz C14BN9i_1Rz C14BN9j_1Rz C14BN9k_1Rz C14BN7_2Rz C14BN8a_2Rz C14BN8b_2Rz C14BN8c_2Rz C14BN8d_2Rz C14BN8e_2Rz C14BN8f_2Rz C14BN8g_2Rz C14BN8h_2Rz C14BN8i_2Rz C14BN8j_2Rz C14BN8k_2Rz C14BN9a_2Rz C14BN9b_2Rz C14BN9c_2Rz C14BN9d_2Rz C14BN9e_2Rz C14BN9f_2Rz C14BN9g_2Rz C14BN9h_2Rz C14BN9i_2Rz C14BN9j_2Rz C14BN9k_2Rz C14BN7_3Rz C14BN8a_3Rz C14BN8b_3Rz C14BN8c_3Rz C14BN8d_3Rz C14BN8e_3Rz C14BN8f_3Rz C14BN8g_3Rz C14BN8h_3Rz C14BN8i_3Rz C14BN8j_3Rz C14BN8k_3Rz C14BN9a_3Rz C14BN9b_3Rz C14BN9c_3Rz C14BN9d_3Rz C14BN9e_3Rz C14BN9f_3Rz C14BN9g_3Rz C14BN9h_3Rz C14BN9i_3Rz C14BN9j_3Rz C14BN9k_3Rz
Total Substance Abuse Across Friends (CCV14SUBSTANCE)	C14BN8a_1Rz C14BN8b_1Rz C14BN8c_1Rz C14BN8d_1Rz C14BN9a_1Rz C14BN9b_1Rz C14BN9c_1Rz C14BN9d_1Rz C14BN8a_2Rz C14BN8b_2Rz C14BN8c_2Rz C14BN8d_2Rz C14BN9a_2Rz C14BN9b_2Rz C14BN9c_2Rz C14BN9d_2Rz C14BN8a_3Rz C14BN8b_3Rz C14BN8c_3Rz C14BN8d_3Rz C14BN9a_3Rz C14BN9b_3Rz C14BN9c_3Rz C14BN9d_3Rz
Total Deviant Activity-Across Friends (CCV14DEVIANCE3)	C14BN7_1Rz C14BN8e_1Rz C14BN8f_1Rz C14BN8g_1Rz C14BN8h_1Rz C14BN8i_1Rz C14BN8j_1Rz C14BN8k_1Rz C14BN9e_1Rz C14BN9f_1Rz C14BN9g_1Rz C14BN9h_1Rz C14BN9i_1Rz C14BN9j_1Rz C14BN9k_1Rz C14BN7_2Rz C14BN8e_2Rz C14BN8f_2Rz C14BN8g_2Rz C14BN8h_2Rz C14BN8i_2Rz C14BN8j_2Rz C14BN8k_2Rz C14BN9e_2Rz C14BN9f_2Rz C14BN9g_2Rz C14BN9h_2Rz C14BN9i_2Rz C14BN9j_2Rz C14BN9k_2Rz C14BN7_3Rz C14BN8e_3Rz C14BN8f_3Rz C14BN8g_3Rz C14BN8h_3Rz C14BN8i_3Rz C14BN8j_3Rz C14BN8k_3Rz C14BN9e_3Rz C14BN9f_3Rz C14BN9g_3Rz C14BN9h_3Rz C14BN9i_3Rz C14BN9j_3Rz C14BN9k_3Rz

Cronbach's alphas were calculated for all of the scales and are reported in the following table:

Scale Name	Cronbach's Alphas	
	Normative	Control
Bonding-1 st Best Friend (CCV14BONDING1)	.79	.76
Bonding-2 nd Best Friend (CCV14BONDING2)	.78	.88
Bonding-3 rd Best Friend (CCV14BONDING3)	.86	.91
Deviance and Substance Abuse -1 st Best Friend (CCV14DEV_SUB1)	.88	.92
Deviance and Substance Abuse -2 nd Best Friend (CCV14DEV_SUB2)	.91	.94
Deviance and Substance Abuse -3 rd Best Friend (CCV14DEV_SUB3)	.93	.96
Substance Abuse-1 st Best Friend (CCV14SUBSTANCE1)	.82	.86
Substance Abuse-2 nd Best Friend (CCV14SUBSTANCE2)	.95	.94
Substance Abuse-3 rd Best Friend (CCV14SUBSTANCE3)	.84	.88
Deviant Activity-1 st Best Friend (CCV14DEVIANC1)	.85	.90
Deviant Activity-2 nd Best Friend (CCV14DEVIANC2)	.90	.93
Deviant Activity-3 rd Best Friend (CCV14DEVIANC3)	.89	.91
Total Bonding Across Friends (CCV14BONDING)	.92	.95
Total Deviance and Substance Abuse Across Friends (CCV14DEV_SUB)	.95	.97
Total Substance Abuse Across Friends (CCV14SUBSTANCE)	.91	.92
Total Deviant Activity-Across Friends (CCV14DEVIANC3)	.95	.96

Most of the scales showed a level of internal reliability.

IV. Item and Scale Means and SD's

None of the items were tested to measure differences in means between the Normative and Control samples.

Self-Report of Close Friends—Normative vs. Control Scales

High or low risk sample	Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Min	Max
HI	CCV14BONDING1	Bonding - 1st BF	99	-0.0199	0.7859	-3.7129	0.7000
	CCV14BONDING2	Bonding - 2nd BF	95	0.0329	0.8503	-2.6904	0.8591
	CCV14BONDING3	Bonding - 3rd BF	87	-0.0442	0.9428	-2.1407	0.9802
	CCV14BONDING	Total Bonding Across Friends	95	-0.0073	0.6677	-2.6047	0.8464
	CCV14DEV_SUB1	Deviant Activity plus Substance Abuse - 1st BF	98	0.1570	0.7318	-0.3965	3.1373
	CCV14DEV_SUB2	Deviant Activity plus Substance Abuse - 2nd BF	95	0.0002	0.6959	-0.3581	5.3699
	CCV14DEV_SUB3	Deviant Activity plus Substance Abuse - 3rd BF	87	0.0750	0.7900	-0.3378	5.2941
	CCV14DEV_SUB	Total Deviant Act plus Substance Abuse Across Frnds	94	0.0867	0.6399	-0.3641	4.1508
	CCV14SUBSTANCE1	Substance Abuse- 1st BF	98	0.1464	0.8085	-0.6057	3.3125
	CCV14SUBSTANCE2	Substance Abuse- 2nd BF	95	-0.0615	0.7097	-0.5550	3.5563
	CCV14SUBSTANCE3	Substance Abuse- 3rd BF	87	0.0682	0.8293	-0.5224	3.8575
	CCV14SUBSTANCE	Total Substance Abuse Across Frnds	94	0.0625	0.6603	-0.5610	2.8958
	CCV14DEVIANCE1	Deviant Activity - 1st BF	99	0.2059	0.9205	-0.2849	4.4359
	CCV14DEVIANCE2	Deviant Activity - 2nd BF	95	0.0331	0.7917	-0.2531	6.3372
	CCV14DEVIANCE3	Deviant Activity - 3rd BF	87	0.0786	0.8968	-0.2394	6.0603
	CCV14DEVIANCE	Total Deviant Activity Across Frnds	95	0.1259	0.7738	-0.2690	4.8202
LO	CCV14BONDING1	Bonding - 1st BF	235	0.0595	0.6804	-2.5613	0.7000
	CCV14BONDING2	Bonding - 2nd BF	225	0.1006	0.6421	-2.6904	0.8591
	CCV14BONDING3	Bonding - 3rd BF	213	0.0287	0.7384	-2.1407	0.9802
	CCV14BONDING	Total Bonding Across Friends	225	0.0659	0.5542	-2.3009	0.8464
	CCV14DEV_SUB1	Deviant Activity plus Substance Abuse - 1st BF	235	-0.1029	0.4022	-0.3965	2.7388
	CCV14DEV_SUB2	Deviant Activity plus Substance Abuse - 2nd BF	225	-0.0344	0.5192	-0.3581	3.4961
	CCV14DEV_SUB3	Deviant Activity plus Substance Abuse - 3rd BF	213	-0.0347	0.5820	-0.3378	4.0188
	CCV14DEV_SUB	Total Deviant Act plus Substance Abuse Across Frnds	225	-0.0564	0.4237	-0.3773	3.1612
	CCV14SUBSTANCE1	Substance Abuse- 1st BF	235	-0.0599	0.6060	-0.6057	2.9770
	CCV14SUBSTANCE2	Substance Abuse- 2nd BF	225	0.0096	0.6594	-0.5550	2.7057
	CCV14SUBSTANCE3	Substance Abuse- 3rd BF	213	-0.0289	0.6550	-0.5224	2.9941
	CCV14SUBSTANCE	Total Substance Abuse Across Frnds	225	-0.0246	0.5258	-0.5803	2.1243
	CCV14DEVIANCE1	Deviant Activity - 1st BF	235	-0.1256	0.3918	-0.2849	3.1293
	CCV14DEVIANCE2	Deviant Activity - 2nd BF	225	-0.0578	0.5615	-0.2531	4.7284
	CCV14DEVIANCE3	Deviant Activity - 3rd BF	213	-0.0378	0.6505	-0.2394	5.1229
	CCV14DEVIANCE	Total Deviant Activity Across Frnds	225	-0.0733	0.4678	-0.2690	4.2280

Note: Values No Answer is coded "N" and Skipped is coded as "S".

	High or low risk sample	
	HI	LO
First Best Friend. Is this friend a boy or a girl?		
N	2	2
S	2	1
Boy	55	106
Girl	44	130
Second Best Friend. Is this friend a boy or a girl?		
N	4	11
S	4	3
Boy	45	120
Girl	50	105
Third Best Friend. Is this friend a boy or a girl?		
N	8	12
S	8	14
Boy	56	97
Girl	31	116
Are any of these three close friends that you described your current romantic partner (boyfriend/girlfriend, husband, or wife)?		
N	1	2
S	2	1
No	57	135
Yes	43	101

V. Recommendations for Use

Bonding scales as well as Total Bonding Across Friends are skewed to high values. The rest of the scales Deviance and Substance Abuse, Deviant Activities and Substance Abuse and their respective Totals Across Friends were negatively skewed.

A number of scales showed floor effects. The user is encouraged to examine all scales with care. In general, the scales collapsed across friends have higher internal consistency estimates, at least in part as a result of the greater number of items. Most items are straightforward in use and interpretation. The scale can be used in two ways. The first is to use the factors identified in this report. The second is to use individual items or create other scales.