

## **Couples Survey**

Year 19

Fast Track Project Technical Report

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### **Citation**

#### *Instrument*

Straus, M. (1979). Measuring intrafamily conflict and violence: The Conflict Tactics Scales. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 41, 75-88.

Elliott, Delbert, (1983), National Youth Survey: Wave VI, 1983, ICPSR 9948.

#### *Report*

Sandoval, J. M. (2011) Couples (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

### **Data Sources**

Raw: C19CI

Scored: CYA19

### **I. Survey Description**

Survey of Couples in Wave XIX is a 6-item derived from Straus' Conflict Tactics. However, items wording and values differ from the original questions applied to partners. The Couples Survey measure frequency of occurrence of things the respondent might have done to his/her partner. The frequency values are: never, once, twice, 3-5 times and more than 5 times.

### **II. Report Sample**

These analyses were conducted on the first cohort on the high-risk control sample (n = 125) and the normative sample (n = 254) for the nineteenth year of the study. The distribution of respondents by site was as follows: for the control sample, 36 were from Durham, 26 were from Nashville, 36 were from Pennsylvania and 27 were from Washington. For the normative sample, 75 were from Durham, 47 were from Nashville, 73 were from Pennsylvania and 59 were from Washington. A screener question is used to establish eligibility for the Couples Survey questions. The sample was reduced to 279 respondents who reported having a partner.

### III. Scaling

A single scale was constructed using 4 items reporting inter-partner physical violence (questions Q487-Q490). The scale for this report was constructed for both the Normative and High-Risk Control samples. The scores were calculated by taking an average of the items comprising the scale. None of the observations were missing 50% or more data. The resulting scale, items that compose it and internal consistencies (Cronbach's coefficient Alpha) are provided below. Comparison of means for the single scale between high and low risk respondents was found significant ( $p < .01$ ).

	Low Risk (n=191)	High Risk (n =88)
Couples Physical Violence (Variables C19ci487 – C19ci490)	.74	.80

### VI. Items Frequency Tables and Means and Standard Deviations

The tables below follow the logic of the questionnaire by displaying frequencies by sample type (High and Low Risk) and violent behaviors between partners. This is followed by means and standard deviation for the single scale constructed by sample group (normative and control).

	High or low risk sample	
	HI	LO
<b>Q485. Times when your partner or you explained your side, suggested a compromise, or showed respect for the other's feelings - #times in the last 12 month</b>		
Missing	37	63
Never	11	17
Once	3	12
Twice	11	18
3-5 times	14	44
More than 5 times	49	100
<b>Q486. Times when your partner or you insulted or swore or shouted or yelled or threatened - #times in the last 12 month</b>		
Missing	37	63
Never	37	87
Once	11	27
Twice	14	19
3-5 times	10	37
More than 5 times	16	21

	High or low risk sample	
	HI	LO
<b>Q487. Times when your partner or you had a sprain, bruise, cut or felt pain the next day because of your fight - #times in the last 12 month</b>		
Missing	37	63
Never	76	178
Once	2	5
Twice	3	5
3-5 times	5	3
More than 5 times	2	.
<b>Q488. Times when your partner or you pushed, shoved, or slapped the other - #times in the last 12 month</b>		
Missing	37	63
Never	72	156
Once	4	11
Twice	3	17
3-5 times	6	7
More than 5 times	3	.
<b>Q489. Times when your partner or you punched, kicked or beat up the other - #times in the last 12 month</b>		
Missing	37	63
Never	77	183
Once	1	4
Twice	4	2
3-5 times	4	2
More than 5 times	2	.
<b>Q490. Times when your partner or you needed to see a doctor because of a fight with the other - #times in the last 12 month</b>		
Missing	37	63
Never	84	189
Once	1	1
Twice	2	1
3-5 times	1	.

## Constructed Scale

Analysis Variable : CYA19CPL Couples Physical CYA-Y19			
High or low risk sample	N	Mean	Std Dev
HI	125	1.31	0.71
LO	254	1.14	0.37

### V. Recommendations for Use

The scale constructed for Couples Survey has good reliability. The user is encouraged to test for associations for variables measuring individual items derived from Straus' Conflict Tactics measure. For these individual variables (Q485 through Q490), the presence of missing values should be noted.