

## Financial Stress Questionnaire

Grade 10 /Year 11

### Fast Track Project Technical Report

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#### Citation

##### *Instrument*

Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group (CPPRG). (1994). *Financial Stress Questionnaire*. Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

##### *Reports*

Corrigan, A. (2003). *Financial Stress Questionnaire, Grade 10 /Year 11* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org><sup>1</sup>

Maumary-Gremaud, A. (1997). *Financial Stress Measure* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Durham, NC: Duke University.<sup>2</sup>

#### Data Sources

Unscored: P11U

Scored: FSI11

#### **I. Scale Description**

The Financial Stress Questionnaire is a nine-item instrument, created for the Fast Track Project, that explores sources of household spending and adequacy of funds for paying bills. The Questionnaire is administered to parents.

The spending sources are: home, clothing, furniture, car, food, medical care, and leisure. Seven items contain statements about the spending sources; for example, "We have enough money to afford the kind of car we need." Responses to these items are coded on a five-point scale and include: "Strongly Agree (1)," "Agree (2)," "Neutral/Mixed (3)," "Disagree (4)," and "Strongly Disagree (5)."

The two remaining items ask the parent if household funds are enough for monthly financial needs. Responses for one of these items ("monthly difficulty in paying bills") are coded using five points, ranging from "A great deal of difficulty (1)" to "No difficulty at all (5)." The second item: "Generally, at the end of each month, do you end up with..." has fill-in-the-blank responses, coded using four points: "Not enough...(1)," "Just enough...(2)," "Some money left over (3)," and "More than enough left over (4)."

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<sup>1</sup> This report.

<sup>2</sup> Report for Year 4, Cohort 1.

## II. Report Sample

This report contains data collected on Cohort 1, Year 11. The data include a high-risk control sample (n=115) and a normative sample (n = 292) for a total N = 407, including overlap. The normative group includes 85 from Durham, 74 from Nashville, 65 from Washington, and 68 from Pennsylvania. The control group includes 33 from Durham, 28 from Nashville, 27 from Washington, and 27 from Pennsylvania. None of these measures contained missing responses.

## III. Scaling

The Financial Stress Questionnaire contains no subscales. A score is calculated as the mean of the seven spending source items times 7. Item scores for the two questions that explore adequacy of monthly funds are reported separately. The alpha coefficients for the normative sample and control samples are:

	Normative Sample	Control Sample
Spending Source Score	0.93	0.90

## IV. Differences Between Groups

T-tests of means on the Spending Source Score, Item 8, and Item 9 yielded the following results for the normative and control groups:

Comparison of Means for Normative and Control for Continuous Scales and Items								
Variable	Label	Normative		Control		DF	t Value	Pr >  t
		Mean	Std Dev	Mean	Std Dev			
fsi11sss	FSI11 Spending Source Score	2.75	1.00	2.94	0.91	351	1.72	0.0864
P11U8	Difficulty paying bills	3.63	1.19	3.19	1.27	351	-3.17	0.0016
P11U9	How much at end of each month	2.50	0.82	2.34	0.86	351	-1.66	0.0970

## V. Recommendations for Use

T-tests of means show significant differences between the normative and control groups for Item 8: "Difficulty paying bills." Alpha coefficients for the Spending Source Score suggests it is useful. Researchers should note that the order in which responses for Item 8 and Item 9 are coded is in the opposite direction from Items 1-7.

VI. Item and Scale Means and SDs

Descriptive Statistics for Normative Sample						
Variable	Label	Mean	N	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
fsi11sss	FSI11 Spending Source Score	2.79	292	0.99	1.00	5.00
P11U1	Home we would like	3.12	292	1.27	1.00	5.00
P11U2	Clothing we should have	2.64	292	1.10	1.00	5.00
P11U3	Furniture we should have	2.84	292	1.15	1.00	5.00
P11U4	Car we need	2.95	291	1.25	1.00	5.00
P11U5	Food we should have	2.34	292	1.08	1.00	5.00
P11U6	Medical care we should have	2.56	291	1.20	1.00	5.00
P11U7	Leisure and Fun activities	3.10	292	1.18	1.00	5.00
P11U8	Difficulty paying bills	3.55	292	1.23	1.00	5.00
P11U9	How much at end of each month	2.47	292	0.82	1.00	4.00

Descriptive Statistics for Control Sample						
variable	Label	Mean	N	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
fsi11sss	FSI11 Spending Source Score	2.94	115	0.91	1.00	5.00
P11U1	Home we would like	3.27	115	1.22	1.00	5.00
P11U2	Clothing we should have	2.90	115	1.08	1.00	5.00
P11U3	Furniture we should have	2.94	115	1.12	1.00	5.00
P11U4	Car we need	3.20	115	1.26	1.00	5.00
P11U5	Food we should have	2.27	115	0.92	1.00	5.00
P11U6	Medical care we should have	2.70	115	1.19	1.00	5.00
P11U7	Leisure and Fun activities	3.32	115	1.20	1.00	5.00
P11U8	Difficulty paying bills	3.19	115	1.27	1.00	5.00
P11U9	How much at end of each month	2.34	115	0.86	1.00	4.00

VII. Item and Subscale Correlations

**Financial Stress Questionnaire  
Correlations for Items 8, 9, and Spending Source Score  
Combined Normative and Control Sample**

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 353 Prob >  r  under H0: Rho=0			
	fsi11sss	P11U8	P11U9
<b>fsi11sss</b> FSI11 Spending Source Score	1.000	-0.578 0.000	-0.559 0.000
<b>P11U8</b> Difficulty paying bills	-0.578 0.000	1.000	0.710 0.000
<b>P11U9</b> How much at end of each month	-0.559 0.000	0.710 0.000	1.000

**Financial Stress Questionnaire – Item Correlations  
Combined Normative and Control Sample**

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 351 Prob >  r  under H0: Rho=0							
	P11U1	P11U2	P11U3	P11U4	P11U5	P11U6	P11U7
P11U1 Home we would like	1.000	0.712 0.000	0.731 0.000	0.704 0.000	0.528 0.000	0.536 0.000	0.639 0.000
P11U2 Clothing we should have	0.712 0.000	1.000	0.801 0.000	0.735 0.000	0.699 0.000	0.648 0.000	0.680 0.000
P11U3 Furniture we should have	0.731 0.000	0.801 0.000	1.000	0.718 0.000	0.626 0.000	0.655 0.000	0.703 0.000
P11U4 Car we need	0.704 0.000	0.735 0.000	0.718 0.000	1.000	0.589 0.000	0.556 0.000	0.650 0.000
P11U5 Food we should have	0.528 0.000	0.699 0.000	0.626 0.000	0.589 0.000	1.000	0.644 0.000	0.495 0.000
P11U6 Medical care we need	0.536 0.000	0.648 0.000	0.655 0.000	0.556 0.000	0.644 0.000	1.000	0.597 0.000
P11U7 Leisure activities	0.639 0.000	0.680 0.000	0.703 0.000	0.650 0.000	0.495 0.000	0.597 0.000	1.000