

**Financial Stress Questionnaire**  
Grade 3/Year 4  
Fast Track Project Technical Report  
Jolynn C. X. Pek  
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SAS Scoring program

**Citation**

*Instrument*

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

*Report*

Pek, J. C. X. (2005). *Financial Stress Questionnaire, Grade 3/Year 4* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project Web site: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org><sup>1</sup>

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

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

**Data Sources**

Raw: P4U

Scored: FSI4

**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 was 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)."

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<sup>1</sup> This report.

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

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).”

## II. Report Sample

This report contains data collected on Cohort 1, Year 4. The data includes a high-risk control sample (n=155) and a normative sample (n = 387) for a total N = 463, including overlap. Of the 463 subjects, 48 are missing all responses, including 41 from the normative group (6 from Durham, 11 from Washington, 9 from Pennsylvania, and 15 from Nashville), and 13 from the control group (3 from Durham, 1 from Nashville, 2 from Pennsylvania, and 7 from Washington), with overlap between the normative and control groups.

## III. Scaling

The Financial Stress Questionnaire contains no subscales. A *Spending Source Score* is calculated as the mean of the seven spending source items (P4U1, P4U2, P4U3, P4U4, P4U5, P4U6, P4U7) times 7 where high scores indicate less spending ability. Item scores for the two questions that explore adequacy of monthly funds (P4U8, P4U9) are reported separately, where high scores indicate less difficulty in making monthly payments and savings respectively. The alpha coefficients for *Spending Source Score* for the normative and control samples are:

	Normative Sample	High Risk Control Sample
<b>Spending Source Score</b>	0.90	0.89

## IV. Differences Between Groups

T-tests between the control sample and the normative sample indicated significant differences for *Spending Source Score*, Item 8, and Item 9. The control sample had higher scores for the *Spending Source Score* than the normative sample. However, the control sample had lower scores on Item 8 and Item 9 than the normative sample.

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			
P4U8	Difficulty paying bills	3.50916	1.19470	3.09859	1.16272	413	-3.35	0.0009
P4U9	How much at end of each month	2.42125	0.83260	2.22535	0.88642	413	-2.22	0.0267
FSI4SSS	FSI4 Spending Source Score	2.72179	0.87465	2.94333	0.91585	413	2.41	0.0164

## V. Recommendations for Use

T-tests of means showed significant differences between the normative and control groups for the *Spending Source Score*, Item 8 (Difficulty Paying Bills) and Item 9 (How Much At End of Each Month). The Spending Source Score was normally distributed for both the normative and control samples and respective alpha coefficient scores suggest that this score is useful.

## VI. Item and Scale Means and SD's

### FSI Normative Sample

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
FSI4SSS	FSI4 Spending Source Score	346	2.757	0.910	1.000	5.000
P4U1	Home we would like	346	3.228	1.226	1.000	5.000
P4U2	Clothing we should have	346	2.679	1.103	1.000	5.000
P4U3	Furniture we should have	346	2.775	1.088	1.000	5.000
P4U4	Car we need	346	3.055	1.251	1.000	5.000
P4U5	Food we should have	346	2.069	0.945	1.000	5.000
P4U6	Medical care we should have	345	2.507	1.283	1.000	5.000
P4U7	Leisure and Fun activities	342	3.000	1.110	1.000	5.000
P4U8	Difficulty paying bills	346	3.454	1.177	1.000	5.000
P4U9	How much at end of each month	346	2.396	0.846	1.000	4.000

### FSI Control Sample

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
FSI4SSS	FSI4 Spending Source Score	142	2.943	0.916	1.000	5.000
P4U1	Home we would like	142	3.437	1.252	1.000	5.000
P4U2	Clothing we should have	142	2.887	1.174	1.000	5.000
P4U3	Furniture we should have	142	2.930	1.109	1.000	5.000
P4U4	Car we need	142	3.218	1.250	1.000	5.000
P4U5	Food we should have	142	2.204	0.957	1.000	5.000
P4U6	Medical care we should have	141	2.723	1.315	1.000	5.000
P4U7	Leisure and Fun activities	141	3.220	1.190	1.000	5.000
P4U8	Difficulty paying bills	142	3.099	1.163	1.000	5.000
P4U9	How much at end of each month	142	2.225	0.886	1.000	4.000

## VII. Item and Scale Correlations

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

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 415 Prob >  r  under H0: Rho=0			
	<b>FSI4SSS</b>	<b>P4U8</b>	<b>P4U9</b>
<b>FSI4SSS</b> FSI4 Spending Source Score	1.00000	-0.54766 <.0001	-0.59394 <.0001
<b>P4U8</b> Difficulty paying bills	-0.54766 <.0001	1.00000	0.55090 <.0001
<b>P4U9</b> How much at end of each month	-0.59394 <.0001	0.55090 <.0001	1.00000

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

Pearson Correlation Coefficients Prob >  r  under H0: Rho=0 Number of Observations									
	P4U1	P4U2	P4U3	P4U4	P4U5	P4U6	P4U7	P4U8	P4U9
<b>P4U1</b> Home we would like	1.00000 <.0001 415	0.65035 <.0001 415	0.59589 <.0001 415	0.63066 <.0001 415	0.45291 <.0001 415	0.39795 <.0001 414	0.55980 <.0001 411	-0.46928 <.0001 415	-0.48659 <.0001 415
<b>P4U2</b> Clothing we should have	0.65035 <.0001 415	1.00000 <.0001 415	0.75448 <.0001 415	0.64692 <.0001 415	0.58898 <.0001 415	0.48894 <.0001 414	0.62385 <.0001 411	-0.49529 <.0001 415	-0.52796 <.0001 415
<b>P4U3</b> Furniture we should have	0.59589 <.0001 415	0.75448 <.0001 415	1.00000 <.0001 415	0.62981 <.0001 415	0.49062 <.0001 415	0.48294 <.0001 414	0.58818 <.0001 411	-0.43345 <.0001 415	-0.48332 <.0001 415
<b>P4U4</b> Car we need	0.63066 <.0001 415	0.64692 <.0001 415	0.62981 <.0001 415	1.00000 <.0001 415	0.38097 <.0001 415	0.35999 <.0001 414	0.52794 <.0001 411	-0.41352 <.0001 415	-0.47130 <.0001 415
<b>P4U5</b> Food we should have	0.45291 <.0001 415	0.58898 <.0001 415	0.49062 <.0001 415	0.38097 <.0001 415	1.00000 <.0001 415	0.54295 <.0001 414	0.50835 <.0001 411	-0.37796 <.0001 415	-0.38182 <.0001 415
<b>P4U6</b> Medical care we should have	0.39795 <.0001 414	0.48894 <.0001 414	0.48294 <.0001 414	0.35999 <.0001 414	0.54295 <.0001 414	1.00000 <.0001 414	0.52636 <.0001 410	-0.37564 <.0001 414	-0.34991 <.0001 414
<b>P4U7</b> Leisure and Fun activities	0.55980 <.0001 411	0.62385 <.0001 411	0.58818 <.0001 411	0.52794 <.0001 411	0.50835 <.0001 411	0.52636 <.0001 410	1.00000 <.0001 411	-0.41882 <.0001 411	-0.54105 <.0001 411
<b>P4U8</b> Difficulty paying bills	-0.46928 <.0001 415	-0.49529 <.0001 415	-0.43345 <.0001 415	-0.41352 <.0001 415	-0.37796 <.0001 415	-0.37564 <.0001 414	-0.41882 <.0001 411	1.00000 <.0001 415	0.55090 <.0001 415
<b>P4U9</b> How much at end of each month	-0.48659 <.0001 415	-0.52796 <.0001 415	-0.48332 <.0001 415	-0.47130 <.0001 415	-0.38182 <.0001 415	-0.34991 <.0001 414	-0.54105 <.0001 411	0.55090 <.0001 415	1.00000 <.0001 415