

Financial Stress Questionnaire

Grade 8 /Year 9

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 8 /Year 9* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>¹

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

Data Sources

Unscored: P9U

Scored: FSI9

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)."

¹ This report.

² Report for Year 4, Cohort 1.

II. Report Sample

This report contains data collected on Cohort 1, Year 9. The data include a high-risk control sample (n=155) and a normative sample (n = 387) for a total N = 463, including overlap. Of the 463 subjects, 113 are missing all responses, including 83 from the normative group (15 from Durham, 20 from Washington, 17 from Pennsylvania, and 31 from Nashville), and 30 from the control group (5 from Durham, 10 from Nashville, 7 from Pennsylvania, and 8 from Washington), with overlap between the normative and control groups. None of these measures was used in the analyses.

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	0.91	0.88

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			
fsi9sss	FSI9 Spending Source Score	2.63	0.94	2.84	0.83	365	2.10	0.0364
P9U8	Difficulty paying bills	3.69	1.18	3.60	1.10	365	-0.68	0.4985
P9U9	How much at end of each month	2.50	0.87	2.44	0.82	365	-0.68	0.4951

V. Recommendations for Use

T-tests of means show significant differences between the normative and control groups for the Spending Source Score. 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
fsi9sss	FSI9 Spending Source Score	2.67	304	0.92	1.00	5.00
P9U1	Home we would like	3.09	304	1.22	1.00	5.00
P9U2	Clothing we should have	2.61	304	1.08	1.00	5.00
P9U3	Furniture we should have	2.67	304	1.10	1.00	5.00
P9U4	Car we need	2.79	304	1.24	1.00	5.00
P9U5	Food we should have	2.09	304	0.97	1.00	5.00
P9U6	Medical care we should have	2.46	304	1.22	1.00	5.00
P9U7	Leisure and Fun activities	2.97	304	1.07	1.00	5.00
P9U8	Difficulty paying bills	3.69	304	1.16	1.00	5.00
P9U9	How much at end of each month	2.49	304	0.86	1.00	4.00

Descriptive Statistics for Control Sample						
variable	Label	Mean	N	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
fsi9sss	FSI9 Spending Source Score	2.84	125	0.83	1.00	5.00
P9U1	Home we would like	3.28	125	1.13	1.00	5.00
P9U2	Clothing we should have	2.78	125	1.06	1.00	5.00
P9U3	Furniture we should have	2.76	125	1.02	1.00	5.00
P9U4	Car we need	3.00	125	1.17	1.00	5.00
P9U5	Food we should have	2.17	125	0.93	1.00	5.00
P9U6	Medical care we should have	2.71	125	1.26	1.00	5.00
P9U7	Leisure and Fun activities	3.15	125	1.13	1.00	5.00
P9U8	Difficulty paying bills	3.60	125	1.10	1.00	5.00
P9U9	How much at end of each month	2.44	125	0.82	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 = 367 Prob > r under H0: Rho=0			
	fsi9sss	P9U8	P9U9
fsi9sss FSI9 Spending Source Score	1.000	-0.593 0.000	-0.647 0.000
P9U8 Difficulty paying bills	-0.593 0.000	1.000	0.626 0.000
P9U9 How much at end of each month	-0.647 0.000	0.626 0.000	1.000

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

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 367 Prob > r under H0: Rho=0							
	P9U1	P9U2	P9U3	P9U4	P9U5	P9U6	P9U7
P9U1 Home we would like	1.000	0.651 0.000	0.640 0.000	0.625 0.000	0.445 0.000	0.461 0.000	0.608 0.000
P9U2 Clothing we should have	0.651 0.000	1.000	0.730 0.000	0.656 0.000	0.618 0.000	0.546 0.000	0.709 0.000
P9U3 Furniture we should have	0.640 0.000	0.730 0.000	1.000	0.660 0.000	0.602 0.000	0.609 0.000	0.669 0.000
P9U4 Car we need	0.625 0.000	0.656 0.000	0.660 0.000	1.000	0.507 0.000	0.509 0.000	0.580 0.000
P9U5 Food we should have	0.445 0.000	0.618 0.000	0.602 0.000	0.507 0.000	1.000	0.589 0.000	0.494 0.000
P9U6 Medical care we need	0.461 0.000	0.546 0.000	0.609 0.000	0.509 0.000	0.589 0.000	1.000	0.560 0.000
P9U7 Leisure activities	0.608 0.000	0.709 0.000	0.669 0.000	0.580 0.000	0.494 0.000	0.560 0.000	1.000