

Parent Report of Child Delinquency

Grade 11/Year 12

Fast Track Project Technical Report

Brenda Heinrichs

April 2004

Table of Contents

- I. Scale Description
- II. Report Sample
- III. Scaling
- IV. Differences Between Groups
- V. Recommendations for Use
- VI. Item and Scale Means and SD's
- VII. Item and Scale Correlations

Citations

Instrument

Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group (CPPRG). (1997). *Parent Report of Child's Delinquency*. Unpublished measure, Duke University Fast Track Project.

Reports

Heinrichs, B. (2004). *Parent Report of Child's Delinquency* (Technical Report) [On-line]. Available: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org/>

Data Sources

Raw : **P12AG**

Scored: **PCD12**

I. Scale Description

Parent-Report of Child Delinquency asks parents to describe their child's delinquent activities, tapping the areas of property damage, theft, assault, and substance use. For each type of delinquent act, the parent is asked whether their child committed the act never, once, twice, three times, or four or more times. The responses are scored on this Likert scale.

II. Report Sample

Primary analyses were conducted on Cohort 1 year 12 normative (n=387) and Cohort 1 high-risk control samples (n=155, overlap is 79). One hundred twenty-one students were missing the entire measure (26% of the sample), including 104 from the normative sample (26% of the sample) and 48 of the control sample (31% of the sample). The non-respondents included 14 students from the Durham site, 42 from Nashville, 29 from Pennsylvania and 36 from the Seattle site. These numbers include some individuals in the overlap sample.

III. Scaling

The following delinquency scales were created by summing the individual items (after adjusting the levels to a scale of 0 to 4 rather than 1 to 5):

- 3 offense-specific scales:
 - o substance abuse (pag6, pag7, pag8, pag9)
 - o theft (pag10, pag12)
 - o interpersonal violence (pag11, pag16)
- 1 offense-general category scales:
 - o status offenses(pag13, pag14, pag15)
- 1 summary scales
 - o general delinquency (pag6, pag7, pag8, pag9, pag10, pag11, pag12, pag13, pag14, pag15, pag16, pag17)

The last item, pag17 (How often has your child-purposely set fire to a house, car, or building?), was not included in any scored responses, except general delinquency, as it did not appear to be associated with any of the factors.

The internal consistency of each score was examined by computing the alpha coefficients for the normative and high- risk control samples:

subscale	norm_rawalpha_	controls_rawalpha_
Parent-report delinquency Substance Use	0.73023	0.74998
Parent-report delinquency theft	0.51177	0.53487
Parent-report Interpersonal Violence	0.38536	0.39048
Parent-report delinq Status Offenses	0.63786	0.62065
Parent-report delinq general del	0.81806	0.79368

IV. Differences Between Groups

T-tests of equality of means were conducted comparing the normative (non-high-risk) sample to the high-risk control sample. Results are listed below.

Variable	Class	N	Mean	StdErr	Probt
Parent-report delinquency Substance Use	C	107	0.4042	0.0693	0.1039
Parent-report delinquency Substance Use	N	234	0.2821	0.0395	.
Parent-report delinquency theft	C	107	0.2804	0.0661	0.0214
Parent-report delinquency theft	N	235	0.1362	0.0294	.
Parent-report Interpersonal Violence	C	107	0.1402	0.0434	0.1228
Parent-report Interpersonal Violence	N	234	0.0705	0.0231	.
Parent-report delinq Status Offenses	C	107	0.7134	0.0831	<.0001
Parent-report delinq Status Offenses	N	235	0.3489	0.0419	.
Parent-report delinq general del	C	107	0.3847	0.0492	0.0016
Parent-report delinq general del	N	235	0.2203	0.0268	.

V. Recommendations for Use

The analyst should be cautioned that the scales are extremely skewed towards the lower part of the scale, because of the low frequency of the occurrence. In addition, it is recommended that data analysts consider the use of dichotomized items (never vs. once or more) for some analyses. Note that item pag13 (How often has your child-been suspended or expelled for bad behavior at school?) should be collapsed into three categories (never, once, more than once).

An abbreviated version of the results using this collapsing scheme is presented below.

Variable	Class	N	Mean	StdErr	Probt
Parent-report delinquency Substance Use	C	107	0.1776	0.0232	0.1025
Parent-report delinquency Substance Use	N	234	0.1346	0.0142	.
Parent-report delinquency theft	C	107	0.1402	0.0272	0.0148
Parent-report delinquency theft	N	235	0.0723	0.014	.
Parent-report Interpersonal Violence	C	107	0.0794	0.0212	0.0191
Parent-report Interpersonal Violence	N	234	0.0321	0.0096	.
Parent-report delinq Status Offenses	C	107	0.4642	0.0462	<.0001
Parent-report delinq Status Offenses	N	235	0.2454	0.0239	.
Parent-report delinq general del	C	107	0.2324	0.0238	<.0001
Parent-report delinq general del	N	234	0.1341	0.0129	.

VI. Item and Scale Means and SD's

Control Sample:

Items:

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev
P12AG6	How often has your child-Drank alcohol beyond a few sips?	106	0.906	1.328
P12AG7	How often has your child-Been drunk in a public place?	106	0.151	0.644
P12AG8	How often has your child-Used illegal drugs such as heroin, crack, cocaine, or LSD?	106	0.406	1.049
P12AG9	How often has your child-Sold illegal drugs?	106	0.113	0.522
P12AG10	How often has your child-Stolen or tried to steal something worth more than \$50?	107	0.187	0.646
P12AG11	How often has your child-Attacked someone with a weapon hurting them?	107	0.075	0.298
P12AG12	How often has your child-Taken some money at without asking?	107	0.374	0.976
P12AG13	How often has your child-Been suspended or expelled for bad behavior at school?	107	1.271	1.502
P12AG14	How often has your child-Been in trouble with the police for something he did?	107	0.579	0.991
P12AG15	How often has your child-Been in trouble with the police for something he did?	107	0.290	0.813
P12AG16	How often has your child-Run away from home?	107	0.206	0.749
P12AG17	How often has your child-Carried a weapon?	107	0.009	0.097
	How often has your child-Purposely set fire to a house, car, or building?			

Scales:

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
pcdsub	'Parent-report delinquency Substance Use'	107	0.404	0.717	0	4.000
pcdth	'Parent-report delinquency theft'	107	0.280	0.684	0	4.000
pcdipv	'Parent-report Interpersonal Violence'	107	0.140	0.449	0	2.500
pcdsto	'Parent-report delinq. Status Offenses'	107	0.713	0.860	0	3.667
pcdgen	'Parent-report delinq. general del'	107	0.385	0.509	0	2.667

Normative Sample:**Items:**

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev
P12AG6	How often has your child-Drank alcohol beyond a few sips?	282	0.716	1.189
P12AG7	How often has your child-Been drunk in a public place?	281	0.121	0.514
P12AG8	How often has your child-Used illegal drugs such as heroin, crack, cocaine, or LSD?	282	0.248	0.858
P12AG9	How often has your child-Sold illegal drugs?	282	0.085	0.499
P12AG10	How often has your child-Stolen or tried to steal something worth more than \$50?	282	0.110	0.519
P12AG11	How often has your child-Attacked someone with a weapon hurting them?	282	0.046	0.340
P12AG12	How often has your child-Taken some money at home without asking?	283	0.198	0.687
P12AG13	How often has your child-Been suspended or expelled for bad behavior at school?	282	0.674	1.151
P12AG14	How often has your child-Been in trouble with the police for something he did?	283	0.396	0.879
P12AG15	How often has your child-Run away from home?	283	0.152	0.591
P12AG16	How often has your child-Carried a weapon?	282	0.131	0.609
P12AG17	How often has your child-Purposely set fire to a house, car, or building?	283	0.007	0.084

Scales:

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
pcdsub	'Parent-report delinquency Substance Use'	282	0.291	0.602	0	4.000
pcdth	'Parent-report delinquency theft'	283	0.154	0.498	0	4.000
pcdipv	'Parent-report Interpersonal Violence'	282	0.089	0.388	0	2.500
pcdsto	'Parent-report delinq. Status Offenses'	283	0.406	0.687	0	4.000
pcdgen	'Parent-report delinq. general del'	283	0.243	0.425	0	2.667

VII. Scale Correlations

Full sample:

Pearson Correlation Coefficients Prob > r under H0: Rho=0 Number of Observations					
	pcdsub	pcdth	pcdipv	pcdsto	pcdgen
pcdsub 'Parent-report delinquency Substance Use'	1.00000 341	0.45703 <.0001 341	0.36678 <.0001 341	0.55132 <.0001 341	0.85352 <.0001 341
pcdth 'Parent-report delinquency theft'	0.45703 <.0001 341	1.00000 342	0.41671 <.0001 341	0.55150 <.0001 342	0.70923 <.0001 342
pcdipv 'Parent-report Interpersonal Violence'	0.36678 <.0001 341	0.41671 <.0001 341	1.00000 341	0.44821 <.0001 341	0.59598 <.0001 341
pcdsto 'Parent-report delinq. Status Offenses'	0.55132 <.0001 341	0.55150 <.0001 342	0.44821 <.0001 341	1.00000 342	0.85736 <.0001 342
pcdgen 'Parent-report delinq. general del'	0.85352 <.0001 341	0.70923 <.0001 342	0.59598 <.0001 341	0.85736 <.0001 342	1.00000 342