

Parent Report on Child's Close Friends

Grade 12/Year 13

Fast Track Project Technical Report

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SAS scoring program

Citation

Instrument

Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group (CPPRG). (1990). *Parent Report on Child's Close Friends* [On-line]. Available: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Report

Rains, C. (2003). *Parent Report on Child's Close Friends* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project website: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Sources

Raw: P130

Scored: PCF13

I. Scale Description

The Parent Report on Child's Close Friends measure was first given in year 8 of this study as part of the summer interview. The measure consists of 10 questions, centered around three main topics: the child's best friend, the child's second best friend, and the child's close friends. For each topic, parents are asked the same three questions: 1) does this friend get into trouble with teachers, the police, or other adults?, 2) does this friend do things you disapprove of?, and 3) are you concerned about the negative influence this friend has on your child? The tenth question asks parents, "How much does your son/daughter hang around with kids who get into trouble?" For the first nine items, the parents can use a scale of 1 ("Very much") to 4 ("Not at all"). The last question uses a scale of 1 ("Never") to 5 ("All the time").

II. Report Sample

These exploratory analyses were conducted on the first cohort on the high-risk control sample (n = 155) and the normative sample (n = 387 including overlap, total N = 463) from the thirteenth year of the study. 139 records were missing the complete measure. 62 records were missing from the control sample (9 from Durham, 22 from Nashville, 12 from Pennsylvania, and 19 from Washington) and 120 records were missing from the normative sample (19 from Durham, 47 from Nashville, 22 from Pennsylvania, and 32 from Washington). These numbers may reflect some overlap between the two samples.

III. Scaling

As mentioned earlier, the first nine items use a scale of 1 to 4 (very much, somewhat, a little, and not at all). The last item uses a scale of 1 to 5 (never, almost never, some, frequently, and all the time). The first nine items are reversed in the scoring program in order to be more consistent with other scales of this type (i.e. a low score would indicate less concern while a high score would indicate more concern). Item 10 is rescaled to a four-point scale for consistency with the other items in the measure and is labeled with an "x".

Summing across the items for each subscale theoretically derives four scales. The first subscale, *Trouble with Adults*, includes the three items (1, 4, 7) that ask whether the child's best friend, second best friend, and close friends get into trouble with the police, teachers, or other adults. The second subscale, *Parental Disapproval of Friends*, includes the three items (2, 5, 8) that ask whether the parent disapproves of the things the child's best friend, second best friend, and close friends do. The third subscale, *Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends*, includes the three items (3, 6, 9) that ask whether the parent is concerned about the negative influence of the child's best friend, second best friend, and close friends. The fourth scale, *Total Parental Concern*, includes all ten items with item 10 rescaled. For all four scales, a low score indicates that the parents are less concerned about their child's friends and a high score indicates that the parents are more concerned about their child's friends.

Cronbach's alphas were calculated for all four of the subscales and are reported in the following table:

Subscales	Cronbach's Alpha	
	Control Sample	Normative Sample
Trouble with Adults (PCF13TRO)	.78	.69
Parental Disapproval of Friends (PCF13PDA)	.75	.71
Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends (PCF13NIN)	.80	.72
Total Parental Concern (PCF13TPC)	.91	.89

All of the subscales showed an adequate level of internal reliability for both the control and the normative samples.

IV. Differences between Groups

A series of t-tests comparing the high-risk control sample and the normative sample (including the overlap) indicated significant differences for three of the subscales: *Trouble With Adults*, *Parental Disapproval of Friends*, and *Total Parental Concern*, with the control sample scoring higher than the normative sample for all three scales. Students in the control sample were more likely than those in the normative sample to have close friends who got into trouble with adults, to have parents who disapproved of the child's friends' activities, and to have parents who were concerned about their child's friends overall.

Also, one scale, *Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends*, approached significance ($p = 0.06$), with the control sample scoring higher than the normative sample. Parents of students in the control sample were more likely than parents of students in the normative sample to be concerned about the negative influence of their child's friends on their child.

Comparison of Means for Normative and Control for Parental Report of Child's Close Friends								
Variable	Label	Normative		Control		DF	t Value	Pr > t
		Mean	Std Dev	Mean	Std Dev			
PCF13TRO	Trouble with Adults - Close Friends	1.31	0.53	1.56	0.71	117	2.81	0.0058
PCF13PDA	Parental Disapproval of Friends	1.52	0.65	1.86	0.78	126	3.43	0.0008
PCF13NIN	Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends	1.42	0.65	1.61	0.78	125	1.86	0.0647
PCF13TPC	Total Parental Concern - Close Friends	1.42	0.56	1.67	0.69	123	2.98	0.0035

V. Recommendations for Use

Analysts should note that several subscales had floor effects, with one being the lowest possible score for all four of the scales:

- *Trouble with Adults*: 61% of the normative sample and 46% of the control sample had a score of one.
- *Parental Disapproval of Friends*: 44% of the normative sample had a score of one.
- *Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends*: 57% of the normative sample and 46% of the control sample had a score of one.
- *Total Parental Concern*: 39% of the normative sample had a score of one.

Users of this measure should consider using the overall scale, *Total Parental Concern*, which showed a high level of reliability for both the normative and the control samples. If the researcher needed further information, the other three scales could be used as well for more detailed data. One other possibility for the measure would be to consider dropping the questions about the second best friend as an acceptable way to reduce the length of the measure without jeopardizing the reliability of the measure. Any variance gained by the three "second best friend" items should be captured by the "close friends" items.

Finally, analysts should be aware that items concerning a student's second best friend and close friends had higher rates of missing than did the items concerning a student's first best friend. These six items showed a high number of missing responses: 4-does 2nd best friend get into trouble with the police, etc. (170 missing), 5-does 2nd best friend do things you disapprove of (171 missing), 6-are you concerned about the negative influence of the 2nd best friend (169 missing), 7-do your child's close friends get into trouble with the police, etc. (174 missing), 8-do your child's close friends do things you disapprove of (174 missing), and 9-are you concerned about the negative influence of your child's close friends (170 missing).

VI. Item and Scale Means and SDs

Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Items Normative Sample

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
P13O1	Does Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	261	1.307	0.684	1.000	4.000
P13O2	Does Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	260	1.500	0.827	1.000	4.000
P13O3	Concerned about Negative Influence of Best Friend?-reversed	262	1.408	0.838	1.000	4.000
P13O4	Does 2nd Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	247	1.275	0.673	1.000	4.000
P13O5	Does 2nd Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	246	1.520	0.832	1.000	4.000
P13O6	Concerned about Negative Influence of 2nd Best Friend?-reversed	248	1.419	0.806	1.000	4.000
P13O7	Do Close Friends Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	242	1.475	0.821	1.000	4.000
P13O8	Do Close Friends Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	243	1.712	0.922	1.000	4.000
P13O9	Concerned about Negative Influence of Close Friends?-reversed	246	1.557	0.901	1.000	4.000
P13O10x	Amount of Time TC Spends w/Friends in Trouble	264	1.705	0.744	1.000	4.000

Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Items Control Sample

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
P13O1	Does Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	88	1.455	0.787	1.000	4.000
P13O2	Does Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	87	1.724	0.924	1.000	4.000
P13O3	Concerned about Negative Influence of Best Friend?-reversed	88	1.534	0.870	1.000	4.000
P13O4	Does 2nd Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	81	1.543	0.867	1.000	4.000
P13O5	Does 2nd Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	81	1.840	0.955	1.000	4.000
P13O6	Concerned about Negative Influence of 2nd Best Friend?-reversed	81	1.531	0.882	1.000	4.000
P13O7	Do Close Friends Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	80	1.688	0.936	1.000	4.000
P13O8	Do Close Friends Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	79	2.000	1.000	1.000	4.000
P13O9	Concerned about Negative Influence of Close Friends?-reversed	80	1.788	1.015	1.000	4.000
P13O10x	Amount of Time TC Spends w/Friends in Trouble	90	1.808	0.748	1.000	4.000

Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Subscales Normative Sample

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
PCF13TRO	Trouble with Adults - Close Friends	251	1.348	0.568	1.000	4.000
PCF13PDA	Parental Disapproval of Friends	251	1.574	0.687	1.000	4.000
PCF13NIN	Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends	252	1.460	0.682	1.000	4.000
PCF13TPC	Total Parental Concern - Close Friends	251	1.461	0.591	1.000	4.000

Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Subscales Control Sample

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
PCF13TRO	Trouble with Adults - Close Friends	82	1.557	0.711	1.000	3.667
PCF13PDA	Parental Disapproval of Friends	82	1.856	0.784	1.000	4.000
PCF13NIN	Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends	82	1.606	0.784	1.000	4.000
PCF13TPC	Total Parental Concern - Close Friends	82	1.673	0.690	1.000	3.778

VII. Item and Scale Correlations

Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Items Report Sample

Pearson Correlation Coefficients Prob > r under H0: Rho=0 Number of Observations										
	P1301	P1302	P1303	P1304	P1305	P1306	P1307	P1308	P1309	P13010x
P1301 Does Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	1.000 314	0.718 0.000 312	0.532 0.000 312	0.459 0.000 292	0.286 0.000 291	0.172 0.003 292	0.467 0.000 284	0.381 0.000 284	0.330 0.000 287	0.431 0.000 308
P1302 Does Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	0.718 0.000 312	1.000 312	0.685 0.000 312	0.385 0.000 292	0.351 0.000 291	0.240 0.000 292	0.433 0.000 284	0.536 0.000 284	0.450 0.000 287	0.444 0.000 307
P1303 Concerned about Negative Influence of Best Friend?-reversed	0.532 0.000 312	0.685 0.000 312	1.000 314	0.308 0.000 293	0.335 0.000 292	0.398 0.000 294	0.421 0.000 285	0.489 0.000 285	0.552 0.000 289	0.454 0.000 309
P1304 Does 2nd Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	0.459 0.000 292	0.385 0.000 292	0.308 0.000 293	1.000 293	0.752 0.000 290	0.621 0.000 291	0.417 0.000 280	0.409 0.000 280	0.373 0.000 283	0.398 0.000 290
P1305 Does 2nd Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	0.286 0.000 291	0.351 0.000 291	0.335 0.000 292	0.752 0.000 290	1.000 292	0.746 0.000 292	0.423 0.000 279	0.485 0.000 279	0.448 0.000 282	0.376 0.000 290
P1306 Concerned about Negative Influence of 2nd Best Friend?-reversed	0.172 0.003 292	0.240 0.000 292	0.398 0.000 294	0.621 0.000 291	0.746 0.000 292	1.000 294	0.289 0.000 280	0.366 0.000 280	0.471 0.000 284	0.300 0.000 292
P1307 Do Close Friends Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	0.467 0.000 284	0.433 0.000 284	0.421 0.000 285	0.417 0.000 280	0.423 0.000 279	0.289 0.000 280	1.000 289	0.779 0.000 288	0.652 0.000 289	0.602 0.000 287
P1308 Do Close Friends Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	0.381 0.000 284	0.536 0.000 284	0.489 0.000 285	0.409 0.000 280	0.485 0.000 279	0.366 0.000 280	0.779 0.000 288	1.000 289	0.788 0.000 289	0.576 0.000 287
P1309 Concerned about Negative Influence of Close Friends?-reversed	0.330 0.000 287	0.450 0.000 287	0.552 0.000 289	0.373 0.000 283	0.448 0.000 282	0.471 0.000 284	0.652 0.000 289	0.788 0.000 289	1.000 293	0.496 0.000 291
P13010x Amount of Time TC Spends w/Friends in Trouble	0.431 0.000 308	0.444 0.000 307	0.454 0.000 309	0.398 0.000 290	0.376 0.000 290	0.300 0.000 292	0.602 0.000 287	0.576 0.000 287	0.496 0.000 291	1.000 318

Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Subscales Report Sample

Pearson Correlation Coefficients Prob > r under H0: Rho=0 Number of Observations				
	PCF13TRO	PCF13PDA	PCF13NIN	PCF13TPC
PCF13TRO Trouble with Adults - Close Friends	1.000 298	0.797 0.000 297	0.649 0.000 297	0.883 0.000 297
PCF13PDA Parental Disapproval of Friends	0.797 0.000 297	1.000 298	0.788 0.000 298	0.949 0.000 298
PCF13NIN Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends	0.649 0.000 297	0.788 0.000 298	1.000 299	0.899 0.000 298
PCF13TPC Total Parental Concern - Close Friends	0.883 0.000 297	0.949 0.000 298	0.899 0.000 298	1.000 298

Appendix – SAS Scoring Program
[\(See Instrument Summary\)](#)