

## **Parent Report on Child's Close Friends**

Grade 7/Year 8

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:* P80

*Scored:* PCF8

## **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 eighth year of the study. 74 records were missing the complete measure. 23 records were missing from the control sample (3 from Durham, 7 from Nashville, 6 from Pennsylvania, and 7 from Washington) and 65 records were missing from the normative sample (10 from Durham, 23 from Nashville, 13 from Pennsylvania, and 19 from Washington). These numbers may reflect some overlap between the two samples.

Three items also showed a high number of missing responses: 4-does 2<sup>nd</sup> best friend get into trouble with the police, etc. (100 missing), 5-does 2<sup>nd</sup> best friend do things you disapprove of (99 missing), and 6-are you concerned about the negative influence of the 2<sup>nd</sup> best friend (99 missing).

### 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 were reversed 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.

Four scales were theoretically derived by summing across the items for each subscale. 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, so that a low score indicates that the parents are not very concerned about their child's friends and a high score indicates that the parents are very 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 (PCF8TRO)	.58	.67
Parental Disapproval of Friends (PCF8PDA)	.69	.65
Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends (PCF8NIN)	.68	.68
Total Parental Concern (PCF8TPC)	.87	.88

All of the subscales showed a moderate to high 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 all of the subscales.

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

Variable	Normative Sample		Control Sample		DF	t Value	Pr >  t
	Mean	Std Dev	Mean	Std Dev			
Trouble with Adults (PCF8TRO)	4.15	1.72	4.81	1.94	374	3.35	0.0009
Parental Disapproval of Friends (PCF8PDA)	4.79	1.84	5.63	2.21	375	3.88	0.0001
Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends (PCF8NIN)	4.76	2.08	5.59	2.46	377	3.44	0.0006
Total Parental Concern (PCF8TPC)	15.23	5.62	17.80	6.73	376	3.93	0.0001

**V. Recommendations for Use**

Analysts should note that one subscale, *Parental Disapproval of Friends*, was normally distributed for both the control and normative samples. One subscale, *Trouble with Adults*, was positively skewed for both samples. The other two subscales, *Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends* and *Total Parental Concern*, were positively skewed for the normative sample and normally distributed for the control sample.

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. In addition, if the researcher needs further information, the other three scales could be used as well for more detailed data. Researchers and analysts should note that a number of responses about the second best friend were missing, seeming to indicate that parents are less likely to know who is their child's second best friend. 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.

**VI. Item and Scale Means and SDs**

**Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Items Normative Sample Year 8**

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
P801	Does Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	317	1.372	0.763	1.000	4.000
P802	Does Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	317	1.521	0.810	1.000	4.000
P803	Concerned about Negative Influence of Best Friend?-reversed	318	1.519	0.922	1.000	4.000
P804	Does 2nd Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	303	1.370	0.725	1.000	4.000
P805	Does 2nd Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	304	1.579	0.800	1.000	4.000
P806	Concerned about Negative Influence of 2nd Best Friend?-reversed	304	1.563	0.842	1.000	4.000
P807	Do Close Friends Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	313	1.505	0.764	1.000	4.000
P808	Do Close Friends Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	314	1.806	0.859	1.000	4.000
P809	Concerned about Negative Influence of Close Friends?-reversed	316	1.785	0.962	1.000	4.000
P8010x	Amount of Time TC Spends w/Friends in Trouble	322	1.668	0.722	1.000	4.000

**Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Items Control Sample Year 8**

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
P801	Does Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	129	1.504	0.830	1.000	4.000
P802	Does Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	129	1.791	0.941	1.000	4.000
P803	Concerned about Negative Influence of Best Friend?-reversed	129	1.767	1.079	1.000	4.000
P804	Does 2nd Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	123	1.545	0.861	1.000	4.000
P805	Does 2nd Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	123	1.764	0.888	1.000	4.000
P806	Concerned about Negative Influence of 2nd Best Friend?-reversed	123	1.780	0.988	1.000	4.000
P807	Do Close Friends Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	128	1.758	0.894	1.000	4.000
P808	Do Close Friends Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	129	2.062	0.974	1.000	4.000
P809	Concerned about Negative Influence of Close Friends?-reversed	129	2.031	1.053	1.000	4.000
P8010x	Amount of Time TC Spends w/Friends in Trouble	132	1.960	0.732	1.000	4.000

**Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Subscales Normative Sample Year 8**

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
PCF8TRO	Trouble with Adults - Close Friends	313	4.251	1.752	3.000	10.000
PCF8PDA	Parental Disapproval of Friends	314	4.916	1.903	3.000	11.000
PCF8NIN	Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends	316	4.875	2.119	3.000	12.000
PCF8TPC	Total Parental Concern - Close Friends	315	15.606	5.772	10.000	35.556

**Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Subscales Control Sample Year 8**

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
PCF8TRO	Trouble with Adults - Close Friends	127	4.807	1.943	3.000	12.000
PCF8PDA	Parental Disapproval of Friends	127	5.626	2.213	3.000	12.000
PCF8NIN	Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends	127	5.587	2.465	3.000	12.000
PCF8TPC	Total Parental Concern - Close Friends	127	17.800	6.734	10.000	40.000

**VII. Item and Scale Correlations**

Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Items Report Sample Year 8

	Pearson Correlation Coefficients Prob >  r  under H0: Rho=0 Number of Observations									
	P8O1	P8O2	P8O3	P8O4	P8O5	P8O6	P8O7	P8O8	P8O9	P8O10x
<b>P8O1</b> Does Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	1.00000 382	0.64087 <.0001 381	0.60348 <.0001 382	0.36003 <.0001 363	0.29237 <.0001 363	0.25754 <.0001 363	0.39221 <.0001 375	0.31521 <.0001 375	0.26819 <.0001 376	0.37967 <.0001 382
<b>P8O2</b> Does Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of?-reversed	0.64087 <.0001 381	1.00000 382	0.75217 <.0001 382	0.24956 <.0001 362	0.37681 <.0001 364	0.29146 <.0001 364	0.39042 <.0001 374	0.41856 <.0001 374	0.38199 <.0001 376	0.40964 <.0001 382
<b>P8O3</b> Concerned about Negative Influence of Best Friend?-reversed	0.60348 <.0001 382	0.75217 <.0001 382	1.00000 383	0.26879 <.0001 363	0.32095 <.0001 364	0.41180 <.0001 364	0.34969 <.0001 375	0.37634 <.0001 375	0.43830 <.0001 377	0.38613 <.0001 383
<b>P8O4</b> Does 2nd Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	0.36003 <.0001 363	0.24956 <.0001 362	0.26879 <.0001 363	1.00000 363	0.71043 <.0001 362	0.64317 <.0001 362	0.42514 <.0001 362	0.31733 <.0001 361	0.24633 <.0001 361	0.45302 <.0001 363
<b>P8O5</b> Does 2nd Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of?-reversed	0.29237 <.0001 363	0.37681 <.0001 364	0.32095 <.0001 364	0.71043 <.0001 362	1.00000 364	0.75160 <.0001 364	0.35088 <.0001 362	0.42599 <.0001 361	0.34709 <.0001 362	0.43548 <.0001 364
<b>P8O6</b> Concerned about Negative Influence of 2nd Best Friend?-reversed	0.25754 <.0001 363	0.29146 <.0001 364	0.41180 <.0001 364	0.64317 <.0001 362	0.75160 <.0001 364	1.00000 364	0.33216 <.0001 362	0.40046 <.0001 361	0.43974 <.0001 362	0.40963 <.0001 364
<b>P8O7</b> Do Close Friends Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	0.39221 <.0001 375	0.39042 <.0001 374	0.34969 <.0001 375	0.42514 <.0001 362	0.35088 <.0001 362	0.33216 <.0001 362	1.00000 378	0.73935 <.0001 377	0.65705 <.0001 377	0.52603 <.0001 378
<b>P8O8</b> Do Close Friends Do Things You Disapprove of?-reversed	0.31521 <.0001 375	0.41856 <.0001 374	0.37634 <.0001 375	0.31733 <.0001 361	0.42599 <.0001 361	0.40046 <.0001 361	0.73935 <.0001 377	1.00000 379	0.77197 <.0001 379	0.43761 <.0001 379
<b>P8O9</b> Concerned about Negative Influence of Close Friends?-reversed	0.26819 <.0001 376	0.38199 <.0001 376	0.43830 <.0001 377	0.24633 <.0001 361	0.34709 <.0001 362	0.43974 <.0001 362	0.65705 <.0001 377	0.77197 <.0001 379	1.00000 381	0.48566 <.0001 381
<b>P8O10x</b> Amount of Time TC Spends w/Friends in Trouble	0.37967 <.0001 382	0.40964 <.0001 382	0.38613 <.0001 383	0.45302 <.0001 363	0.43548 <.0001 364	0.40963 <.0001 364	0.52603 <.0001 378	0.43761 <.0001 379	0.48566 <.0001 381	1.00000 389

Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Subscales Report Sample Year 8

Pearson Correlation Coefficients Prob >  r  under H0: Rho=0 Number of Observations				
	PCF8TRO	PCF8PDA	PCF8NIN	PCF8TPC
<b>PCF8TRO</b> Trouble with Adults - Close Friends	1.00000 376	0.74557 <.0001 375	0.66349 <.0001 376	0.87043 <.0001 376
<b>PCF8PDA</b> Parental Disapproval of Friends	0.74557 <.0001 375	1.00000 377	0.79637 <.0001 377	0.93334 <.0001 377
<b>PCF8NIN</b> Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends	0.66349 <.0001 376	0.79637 <.0001 377	1.00000 379	0.91634 <.0001 378
<b>PCF8TPC</b> Total Parental Concern - Close Friends	0.87043 <.0001 376	0.93334 <.0001 377	0.91634 <.0001 378	1.00000 378