

Psychopathy Screening Device

Grade 7/Year 8

FAST Track Project Technical Report *Addendum*

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Citation

Instrument

Frick, P.J. & Hare, R.D. (in press). Psychopathy Screening Device. Toronto: Multi-Health Systems.

Report

Doyle, S.R. & McCarty, C.A. (2000). Psychopathy Screening Device (Technical Report) [On-line]. Available: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Data Sources

Raw: p8aa

Scored: psd8

I. Scale Description

The Psychopathy Screening Device is a measure designed to identify dimensions integral to the description of childhood psychopathy. This instrument was developed as an extension of the adult Psychopathy Checklist – Revised (PCL-R; Hare, 1991) for use with children, with each of the 20-items of the PCL-R being developed into an analogous item applicable to children. The items are on a 3-point scale, with 0 indicating “Not at All True”, 1 “Sometimes True” and 2 as “Definitely True”. It was administered to the primary caregiver of the child in each family at grade 7.

II. Scaling Results

This addendum to the technical report is based upon Year 8, Cohort 1 data, Normative (n=322) and High Risk Control (n=133) samples. A more detailed description of the samples can be found in the technical report. Scales for the Psychopathy Screening Device were obtained from confirmatory factor analyses (CFA). In previous factor analyses, Frick, Bodin and Barry (2000) eliminated items 2 and 6.¹ In this study, item 6 was excluded from the scaling to be consistent with their procedure. In contrast to their analyses, item 2 was included in the first CFA; the second CFA excludes this item.

The structure of the Psychopathy Screening Device had previously been tested in two different factor analyses, one conducted on a community sample of children and one with a sample of clinically-referred children (see Frick, Bodin & Barry, 2000). Their results indicated a good fit to the three factor solution with

¹ From a personal communication with P. J. Frick, Ph.D., he indicated that item 2 was eliminated from this analysis because school personnel preferred teachers not rate this item and because there was very little variance with this item with their community sample. However, in previous analyses in 1994 this item was included with a clinically-referred sample and it loaded with the impulsivity items. Therefore, it was decided to assess the propriety of inclusion of this item with the Normative and High Risk Control samples.

both samples. To be consistent, the current analyses were conducted to assess the overall fit of this three factor solution.

The constructs are tested together, with correlated scales assumed. A simple measurement model is utilized, allowing for correlations among the dimensions (exogenous variables) and individual error components for each item. Results indicated each factor loading was statistically significant ($p < .05$) and a moderately good fit of the three-factor solution with the Normative and High Risk Control samples. The standardized loading coefficients for the CFAs are presented below in Tables 1 and 2. In comparing the two CFA solutions, the change in chi-square tests indicated a significant improvement in fit for the second solution (Item 2 excluded, see Table 2) for both the Normative ($\chi^2_{17} = 55.3353$, $p < .001$) and High Risk Control ($\chi^2_{17} = 46.7553$, $p < .001$) samples. Scale scores derived for the Psychopathy Screening Device were calculated on the results of the 18-item second CFA (Table 2), which excludes items 2 and 6.

Table 1: Results of Confirmatory Factor Analysis, Three Factor Solution, Normative Sample (n=322) and High Risk Control Sample (n=133), *Item 2 Included*.

Item No.	Factor 1 : <i>Narcissism</i>	Normative	High Risk Control
5.	His/her emotions seem shallow and not genuine.	0.5910	0.6258
8.	Brags excessively about his/her abilities, accomplishments, etc	0.5695	0.6037
10.	Uses or “cons” other people to get what he/she wants.	0.6954	0.7076
11.	Teases or makes fun of other people.	0.5640	0.6506
14.	Can be charming at times, but in insincere or superficial ways.	0.6575	0.6641
15.	Becomes angry when corrected/punished.	0.6291	0.5216
16.	Seems to think that he/she is better than other people.	0.5990	0.5453
Item No. <u>Factor 2 : <i>Problems of Impulse Control</i></u>			
1.	Blames others for his/her mistakes.	0.6163	0.6847
2.	Engages in illegal activities	0.3577	0.3579
4.	Acts without thinking of the consequences.	0.6511	0.6342
9.	Gets bored easily.	0.4899	0.4682
13.	Engages in risky or dangerous activities.	0.4493	0.4338
17.	Does not plan ahead or leaves things until the “last minute”.	0.4748	0.4609
Item No. <u>Factor 3 : <i>Callous-unemotional Traits</i></u>			
3.	Is concerned about how well he/she does at school or work.	0.2828	0.3215
7.	Is good at keeping promises.	0.5928	0.4043
12.	Feels bad or guilty when he/she does something wrong.	0.4419	0.4567
18.	Is concerned about the feelings of others.	0.6725	0.7273
19.	Does not show feelings or emotions.	0.4005	0.3432
20.	Keeps the same friends.	0.3516	0.3410
		GFI = .8912	.8410
		CFI = .8460	.8288
		NFI = .7643	.6582
		RMR = .0673	.0341

Correlations among Exogenous Variables: Normative sample (n=322) above diagonal, High Risk Control sample (n=133) below diagonal.

	Callous-unemotional Traits	Narcissism	Problems of Impulse Control
Callous-unemotional Traits	-	.853	.617
Narcissism	.830	-	.554
Problems of Impulse Control	.428	.238	-

Table 2: Results of Confirmatory Factor Analysis, Three Factor Solution, Normative Sample (n=322) and High Risk Control Sample (n=133), *Item 2 Excluded*.

Item No.	Factor 1 : <i>Narcissism</i>	Normative	High Risk Control
5. His/her emotions seem shallow and not genuine.		0.5813	0.6105
8. Brags excessively about his/her abilities, accomplishments, etc		0.5694	0.6071
10. Uses or “cons” other people to get what he/she wants.		0.6964	0.7164
11. Teases or makes fun of other people.		0.5667	0.6520
14. Can be charming at times, but in insincere or superficial ways.		0.6590	0.6636
15. Becomes angry when corrected/punished.		0.6301	0.5173
16. Seems to think that he/she is better than other people.		0.6029	0.5521
Item No. <u>Factor 2 : <i>Problems of Impulse Control</i></u>			
1. Blames others for his/her mistakes.		0.6281	0.6964
4. Acts without thinking of the consequences.		0.6438	0.6333
9. Gets bored easily.		0.4982	0.4728
13. Engages in risky or dangerous activities.		0.4213	0.3944
17. Does not plan ahead or leaves things until the “last minute”.		0.4906	0.4664
Item No. <u>Factor 3 : <i>Callous-unemotional Traits</i></u>			
3. Is concerned about how well he/she does at school or work.		0.2839	0.3215
7. Is good at keeping promises.		0.5922	0.4043
12. Feels bad or guilty when he/she does something wrong.		0.4431	0.4598
18. Is concerned about the feelings of others.		0.6721	0.7235
19. Does not show feelings or emotions.		0.4001	0.3453
20. Keeps the same friends.		0.3518	0.3440
		GFI = .9100	.8630
		CFI = .8810	.8749
		NFI = .8018	.6990
		RMR = .0648	.0871

Correlations among Exogenous Variables: Normative sample (n=322) above diagonal, High Risk Control sample (n=133) below diagonal.

	Callous-unemotional Traits	Narcissism	Problems of Impulse Control
Callous-unemotional Traits	-	.853	.615
Narcissism	.831	-	.541
Problems of Impulse Control	.425	.216	-

III. References

Frick, P.J. & Hare, R.D. (in press). The Psychopathy Screening Device. Toronto: Multi-Health Systems.

Frick, P.J., Bodin, S.D. & Barry, C.T. (2000). Psychopathic traits and conduct problems in community and clinic-referred samples in children: Further development of the Psychopathy Screening Device. Psychological Assessment, 12, 382-393.

Hare, R.D. (1991). The Hare Psychopathy Checklist-Revised. Toronto: Multi-Health Systems.