

Romantic Partner Drug Use
Year 14
Fast Track Project Technical Report
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Table of Contents

- I. Scale Description
- II. Report Sample
- III. Differences between Groups
- IV. Recommendations for Use

Citation

Instrument

Bearman, P.S., Jones, J., & Udry, J.R. (1997). The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health: Research Design. Available Online, <http://www.cpc.unc.edu/addhealth>

Report

Lamb, R. (2010). *Romantic Partner Drug Use/ Other Behaviors* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Data Sources

Raw: C14BP1

Scored: RPD14

I. Survey Description

The Romantic Partner Drug Use and Other Behaviors Survey is a 22 question, non-scaled survey. The series of questions are designed to measure the multiple aspects of a romantic partner's alcohol use, drug use and illegal activities. The original scoring method was established by a consortium of researchers at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism as part of the large scale Collaborative Study on the Genetics of Alcoholism designed to gather information about alcohol consumption and the presence of psychiatric disorders. This measure was added to the Fast Track protocol in year 14 (2004).

II. Report Sample

These analyses were conducted on the first cohort on the high-risk Control sample (n = 155) and the Normative sample (n = 387, N = 463 with overlap) for the fourteenth year of the study. One hundred twenty-one records were missing for the complete measure. Fifty-two records from the Control sample (8 from Durham, 19 from Nashville, 9 from Pennsylvania and 16 from Washington) and 101 records were missing from the Normative sample (14 from Durham, 40 from Nashville, 23 from Pennsylvania and 24 from Washington).

Table 1 summarizes the level of use associate with each type of substance. Most respondents do not use drugs. Very few respondents reported enough substance use to warrant treatment.

Table 1.

Summary of Use Level for Alcohol, Tobacco, Marijuana and Illegal Drugs

Response	Drank Alcohol		Used Tobacco		Used Marijuana		Used Other Illegal Drugs	
	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N
Didn't Use	37	69	42	104	53	133	66	171
Occasional Used	26	83	8	27	10	34	3	9
Used Regularly	7	20	13	35	5	9	0	1
Used Heavily	0	8	7	14	2	5	1	0
Used Enough to Warrant Treatment	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0

Table 2 summarizes the level of activity associate with each type of illegal action. Most respondents do not report any kind of delinquency. Only eleven respondents reported engaging in the activities at a higher level.

Table 2.

Summary of Level of Activity Associated with Each Type of Illegal Action

Response	Damaged or Destroyed Property		Was Involved in a Gang		Stole Things		Got into Fights		Sold Drugs		Did not Pay for Things		Load and Unruly in Public	
	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N
Very Much	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	3
Somewhat	1	1	0	1	1	3	0	2	0	4	1	1	2	1
A Little	2	10	0	1	1	1	4	6	0	0	0	2	6	9
Not at All	68	170	70	177	68	177	65	171	71	176	68	178	63	168

III. Differences between Groups.

The Control sample and Normative sample show no significant differences in their responses. Table 3 shows the Control sample and Normative sample means, standard deviation and ranges for each of the categories reported in the survey. The reported mean for both of the response categories listed in the table is greater for the Control group than the mean for the Normative group indicating a possible area of further exploration.

Table 3.

Item Means, Standard Deviations and Range for Each Item

Item	Mean		Standard Deviation		Range		Number of Subjects	
	C	N	C	N	C	N	C	N
My Partner: Drank Alcohol	0.57	0.83	0.67	0.83	2	4	70	181
My Partner: Used Tobacco	0.83	0.79	1.13	1.04	4	4	71	181
My Partner: Used Marijuana	0.37	0.37	0.75	0.71	3	3	70	181
My Partner: Used Illegal Drugs	0.09	0.06	0.41	0.26	3	2	70	181
My Partner: Damaged Property	3.94	3.93	0.29	0.27	2	2	71	181
My Partner: Was Involved with a Gang	4.00	3.95	0	0.35	0	3	70	181
My Partner: Stole Things	3.96	3.96	0.27	0.27	2	2	70	181
My Partner: Got Into Fights	3.86	3.94	0.54	0.41	3	3	70	181
My Partner: Sold Drugs	4.00	3.98	0.00	0.37	0	3	71	181
My Partner: Did Not Pay for Things	3.93	3.36	0.43	0.18	3	2	71	181
My Partner: Was Loud or Unruly	3.86	3.49	0.42	0.46	2	3	70	181
My Partner and I: Drank Alcohol	3.44	3.72	0.81	0.85	3	3	71	181
My Partner and I: Used Tobacco	3.21	3.97	1.24	1.00	3	3	71	181
My Partner and I: Used Marijuana	3.65	4.0	0.78	0.70	3	3	71	181
My Partner and I: Used Illegal Drugs	3.94	3.72	0.37	0.26	3	2	71	181
My Partner and I: Damaged Property	3.99	3.97	0.12	0.00	1	0	71	181
My Partner and I: Were Involved in a Gang	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.22	0	3	71	181
My Partner and I: Stole Things	4.00	3.98	0.00	0.17	0	2	71	181
My Partner and I: Got into a Fight	4.00	3.98	0.00	0.23	0	3	71	181
My Partner and I: Sold Drugs	4.00	3.98	0.00	0.23	0	3	71	181
My Partner and I: Did Not Pay For Things	3.96	3.98	0.36	0.17	3	2	71	181
My Partner and I: Was Loud and Unruly	3.93	3.92	0.26	0.39	1	3	71	181

VI. Recommendations for Use

The Romantic Partner Drug Use and Other Behaviors Survey allows researchers to characterize the distribution of a romantic partner's alcohol use, drug use and illegal activities. There is little use of drugs reported by the romantic partner. Samples are small and skewed to low values. The user must bear in mind that this behavior is rare among romantic partners of the Target Child (TC).