

**Romantic Partner Drug Use**  
Year 15  
Fast Track Project Technical Report  
Richard L. Lamb  
July 15, 2010

**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: C15BP

Scored: RPD15

**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. Ninety-three records were missing for the complete measure. Thirty-six records from the Control sample (14 from Durham, 30 from Nashville, 13 from Pennsylvania and 21 from Washington) and 78 records were missing from the Normative sample (7 from Durham, 14 from Nashville, 3 from Pennsylvania and 12 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	35	75	43	109	60	135	74	181
Occasional Used	38	94	8	36	9	40	2	8
Used Regularly	4	19	20	33	6	10	1	1
Used Heavily	3	4	9	13	4	5	2	0
Used Enough to Warrant Treatment	2	0	2	1	3	2	3	2

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	1	0	4	1	3	0	3	0	4	0	4	0	3
Somewhat	1	4	1	1	1	1	3	4	3	4	1	1	4	2
A Little	3	3	1	0	1	3	2	6	1	7	1	1	0	9
Not at All	78	184	80	187	79	185	77	179	78	177	80	186	78	178

### 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	0.77	0.75	0.89	0.72	4	3	82	192
My Partner: Used Tobacco	1.01	0.76	1.20	1.00	4	4	82	192
My Partner: Used Marijuana	0.55	0.43	1.06	0.80	4	4	82	192
My Partner: Used Illegal Drugs	0.27	0.09	0.90	0.47	4	4	82	192
My Partner: Damaged Property	3.94	3.93	0.29	0.38	2	3	82	192
My Partner: Was Involved with a Gang	3.97	3.93	0.25	0.45	2	3	82	192
My Partner: Stole Things	3.93	3.88	0.41	0.42	3	3	82	192
My Partner: Got Into Fights	3.90	3.86	0.40	0.49	2	3	82	192
My Partner: Sold Drugs	3.91	3.92	0.39	0.54	2	3	82	192
My Partner: Did Not Pay for Things	3.96	3.89	0.25	0.46	2	3	82	192
My Partner: Was Loud or Unruly	3.90	3.23	0.43	0.89	2	3	82	192
My Partner and I: Drank Alcohol	3.32	3.47	0.88	1.00	3	3	82	192
My Partner and I:Used Tobacco	3.12	3.70	1.21	0.66	3	3	82	192
My Partner and I: Used Marijuana	3.65	3.92	0.80	0.45	3	3	82	192
My Partner and I:Used Illegal Drugs	3.89	3.95	0.47	0.34	3	3	82	192
My Partner and I: Damaged Property	3.96	3.96	0.25	0.31	2	3	82	192
My Partner and I: Were Involved in a Gang	3.95	3.96	0.27	0.34	2	3	82	192
My Partner and I: Stole Things	3.95	3.96	0.35	0.31	3	3	82	192
My Partner and I: Got into a Fight	3.96	3.97	0.25	0.34	2	3	82	192
My Partner and I: Sold Drugs	3.96	3.96	0.33	0.34	3	3	82	192
My Partner and I: Did Not Pay For Things	3.97	3.95	0.22	0.37	2	3	82	192
My Partner and I: Was Loud and Unruly	3.95	3.92	0.31	0.38	2	3	82	192

## 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).