

Romantic Relationships Questionnaire

Grade 7/Year 8

Fast Track Project Technical Report

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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

Schimmel, K.D. (2000). Romantic Relationships Questionnaire. (Fast Track Project Technical Report) [On-line]. Available: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org/rrq8tech.doc>

Data Sources

Raw: c8ab

Scored: rrq8

I. Scale Description

The Romantic Relationships Questionnaire is a 41-item instrument based on measures used in the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. Fast Track's version was added to the child instrument battery in study Year 7. The measure assesses sexual activity and what, if any, sexually transmitted diseases have been contracted. If respondents report that they are sexually active, further questions about number of partners, frequency, and type of protection used during intercourse are asked.

II. Report Sample

Initial exploration was conducted on Year 7 (end of Grade 6), Cohort 1 data (the first year in which the instrument was used), including both high-risk control ($n = 155$) and normative samples ($n = 387$ including overlap, total $N = 463$); treatment students were not included. 77 students (17 % of Cohort 1) were missing responses for the entire scale, including 68 normative students (18%) and 24 high-risk students (15 %). The non-respondents included 14 students from the Durham site, 22 students from Nashville, 17 students from Pennsylvania, and 24 students from Seattle.

III. Scaling

For most items in this instrument, there is no obvious scoring. Most items are naturally dichotomous (e.g., ever had a special romantic relationship) and one item indicates age (e.g., age first had sexual intercourse). This measure involves a complex skip pattern, of which the analyst should be aware. Only

students who reported having held hands with a non-family member were asked whether they had kissed a non-family member on the mouth ($n = 132$). Likewise, only if students indicated “yes” on the previous two items were they asked if they had told a non-family member that they liked or loved them ($n = 63$). If the students indicated “yes” for the previous three items, they were then asked if these things were done with the same person ($n = 51$). Only students who reported that they ever had sexual intercourse were asked the remaining questions on the measure ($n = 63$). Of these students, only those who indicated that they had used birth control during their first experience ($n = 35$), or their most recent experience of sexual intercourse ($n = 30$) were asked what type of birth control they had used. These items are measured on a 1 to 13-point scale with each number corresponding to a different type of birth control method. Note that if no method was used, or if only one or two methods were used, students were instructed to enter ‘99.’ Analysts should be aware of this procedure in order to correctly interpret the statistics. Only students who indicated that they had ever used a condom were asked the proportion of time they had used it ($n = 12$). This item is measured on a 5-point scale ranging from “none of the time” to “all of the time.” Finally, students who had had sexual intercourse were asked questions about a variety of sexually transmitted diseases. Only students who had been told they had a sexually transmitted disease were asked when they first were told ($n = 2$). These items are measured on a 3-point scale ranging from “less than 1 year ago” to “more than 2 years ago.”

IV. Differences Between Groups

Differences between the high-risk control sample and the non-high-risk normative sample were assessed on the scale items individually, scanning for significant differences at the .05 level. T-tests were used for the items assessing age of the first time students had sexual intercourse and the amount of time a condom was used during intercourse. Differences in all other items were assessed by chi-squared tests of independence. Note that levels of reported involvement in sexual activity are quite low in this sample, compromising the ability to detect group differences.

Significance tests indicated high-risk students were more likely to report having had a special romantic relationship (52% vs. 41%), to have kissed a non-family member on the mouth (71% vs. 38%), and to have ever had sexual intercourse than were normative students (26% vs. 11%). Significant differences were not found on the remaining items.

V. Recommendations for Use

Most items are straightforward in use and interpretation. The low number of subjects that reported having had sexual intercourse, used birth control, or been told they had a sexually transmitted disease indicates that this measure should be used with caution.

Note: The data sets could not be compared with missing data information for any of the cohorts as information was not yet available at the time of this report. Also, the analyst should be aware that at the time of this report the Cohort 1, Year 7 data set coded has skipped data coded as ‘N’ and/or ‘99’ (for the items assessing type of birth control used), whereas later data sets use ‘S’ to code skipped data and the item response ‘99’.

VI. Item Means and SD's

RRQ Items - Normative Sample

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
C8AB1	Any Special Romantic Rships in Lifetime?	319	0.433	0.494	0.000	1.000
C8AB2	Inits of Persons You Had Rship W Last Yr	0	.	.	.	.
C8AB3	Hold Hands W/ Non-Family Member Last Yr?	183	0.585	0.494	0.000	1.000
C8AB4	Kiss On Moth Non-Family Member Last Year	107	0.449	0.500	0.000	1.000
C8AB5	Tell Non-Family Member You Like/Love The	48	0.833	0.377	0.000	1.000
C8AB6	Did You Do These Things W/ Same Person?	40	0.675	0.474	0.000	1.000
C8AB7	Inits of Person Whom You Did These Thing	0	.	.	.	.
C8AB8	Have You Ever Had Sexual Intercourse?	319	0.147	0.355	0.000	1.000
C8AB9	Age You First Had Sexual Intercourse	47	11.660	1.760	5.000	14.000
C8AB10	Use Any Birth Control First Intercourse?	47	0.553	0.503	0.000	1.000
C8AB12	Had Sexual Intercourse in Last Year?	47	0.830	0.380	0.000	1.000
C8AB13	Use Birth Control Most Recent Intercours	39	0.641	0.486	0.000	1.000
C8AB15	Ever Used Condom During Intercourse?	15	0.667	0.488	0.000	1.000
C8AB16	Amt of Time Used Condom During Intercour	10	3.800	1.229	2.000	5.000
C8AB17	Ever Forced to Have Sex Against Your Wil	47	0.064	0.247	0.000	1.000
C8AB18A	Ever Told You Have Chlamydia?	47	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
C8AB18B	Ever Told You Have Syphilis?	47	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
C8AB18C	Ever Told You Have Gonorrhea?	47	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
C8AB18D	Ever Told You Have HIV or AIDS?	47	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
C8AB18E	Ever Told You Have Genital Herpes?	47	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
C8AB18F	Ever Told You Have Genital Warts?	47	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
C8AB18G	Ever Told You Have Trichomoniasis?	47	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
C8AB18H	Ever Told You Have Hepatitis B?	47	0.021	0.146	0.000	1.000
C8AB18I	Ever Told You Have Bacterial Vaginosis?	47	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
C8AB18J	Ever Told Have Non-Gonococcal Vaginitis?	47	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
C8AB19A	When First Told You Have Chlamydia?	0	.	.	.	.
C8AB19B	When First Told You Have Syphilis?	0	.	.	.	.
C8AB19C	When First Told You Have Gonorrhea?	0	.	.	.	.
C8AB19D	When First Told You Have HIV or AIDS?	0	.	.	.	.
C8AB19E	When First Told You Have Genital Herpes?	0	.	.	.	.
C8AB19F	When First Told You Have Genital Warts?	0	.	.	.	.
C8AB19G	When First Told You Have Trichomoniasis?	0	.	.	.	.
C8AB19H	When First Told You Have Hepatitis B?	1	1.000	.	1.000	1.000
C8AB19I	When 1st Told Have Bacterial Vaginosis?	0	.	.	.	.
C8AB19J	When 1st Told Have Non-Gonoc. Vaginitis?	0	.	.	.	.

RRQ Items - High-risk Control Sample

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
C8AB1	Any Special Romantic Rships in Lifetime?	131	0.519	0.502	0.000	1.000
C8AB2	Inits of Persons You Had Rship W Last Yr	0	.	.	.	.
C8AB3	Hold Hands W/ Non-Family Member Last Yr?	65	0.585	0.497	0.000	1.000
C8AB4	Kiss On Moth Non-Family Member Last Year	38	0.711	0.460	0.000	1.000
C8AB5	Tell Non-Family Member You Like/Love The	27	0.815	0.396	0.000	1.000
C8AB6	Did You Do These Things W/ Same Person?	22	0.500	0.512	0.000	1.000
C8AB7	Inits of Person Whom You Did These Thing	0	.	.	.	.
C8AB8	Have You Ever Had Sexual Intercourse?	131	0.260	0.440	0.000	1.000
C8AB9	Age You First Had Sexual Intercourse	34	11.176	1.866	5.000	14.000
C8AB10	Use Any Birth Control First Intercourse?	34	0.559	0.504	0.000	1.000
C8AB12	Had Sexual Intercourse in Last Year?	35	0.743	0.443	0.000	1.000
C8AB13	Use Birth Control Most Recent Intercours	26	0.692	0.471	0.000	1.000
C8AB15	Ever Used Condom During Intercourse?	10	0.500	0.527	0.000	1.000
C8AB16	Amt of Time Used Condom During Intercour	5	4.200	1.304	2.000	5.000
C8AB17	Ever Forced to Have Sex Against Your Wil	35	0.057	0.236	0.000	1.000
C8AB18A	Ever Told You Have Chlamydia?	35	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
C8AB18B	Ever Told You Have Syphilis?	35	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
C8AB18C	Ever Told You Have Gonorrhea?	35	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
C8AB18D	Ever Told You Have HIV or AIDS?	35	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
C8AB18E	Ever Told You Have Genital Herpes?	35	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
C8AB18F	Ever Told You Have Genital Warts?	35	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
C8AB18G	Ever Told You Have Trichomoniasis?	35	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
C8AB18H	Ever Told You Have Hepatitis B?	35	0.029	0.169	0.000	1.000
C8AB18I	Ever Told You Have Bacterial Vaginosis?	35	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
C8AB18J	Ever Told Have Non-Gonococcal Vaginitis?	35	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
C8AB19A	When First Told You Have Chlamydia?	0	.	.	.	.
C8AB19B	When First Told You Have Syphilis?	0	.	.	.	.
C8AB19C	When First Told You Have Gonorrhea?	0	.	.	.	.
C8AB19D	When First Told You Have HIV or AIDS?	0	.	.	.	.
C8AB19E	When First Told You Have Genital Herpes?	0	.	.	.	.
C8AB19F	When First Told You Have Genital Warts?	0	.	.	.	.
C8AB19G	When First Told You Have Trichomoniasis?	0	.	.	.	.
C8AB19H	When First Told You Have Hepatitis B?	1	1.000	.	1.000	1.000
C8AB19I	When 1st Told Have Bacterial Vaginosis?	0	.	.	.	.
C8AB19J	When 1st Told Have Non-Gonoc. Vaginitis?	0	.	.	.	.