

Self-Reported Delinquency
Grade 9 / Year 10
Fast Track Project Technical Report
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Citation

Instrument

Elliot, D. S. Huizinga, D., Ageton, S. S. (1985). *Explaining delinquency and drug use*. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage.

Report

Heinrichs, B. (2003). *Self-Reported Delinquency* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project website: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Data Sources

Raw : C10AD

Scored : SRD10

I. Scale Description

Self-Report of Delinquency instruments are well known and frequently used. Their advantages and disadvantages have been discussed in the literature (Huizinga and Elliott, 1986; Klein, 1988). The latter reference is a book containing several chapters of interest. This particular instrument was previously used for the Pittsburgh Youth Study. In the SRD, participants describe their delinquent activities, tapping the areas of property damage, theft, assault, and substance use. For each type of delinquent act, the participant is asked whether he/she ever committed it, how many times in the past year, if others were involved, and if he/she was under the influence of alcohol or drugs while committing it.

II. Report Sample

Primary analyses were conducted on Cohort 1 year 10 normative (n=387) and Cohort 1 high-risk control samples (n=155, overlap is 59). One hundred four students were missing the entire measure (22% of the sample), including 90 from the normative sample (23% of the sample) and

34 of the control sample (22% of the sample). The non-respondents included 17 students from the Durham site, 35 from Nashville, 27 from Penn State and 25 from the Seattle site. The non-respondents included 55 white and 41 black students, 63 boys and 41 girls.

III. Scaling

The following delinquency scales were created by summing the individual items using the first question for each delinquent behavior (whether the child committed the act or not):

- 2 offense-general category scales:
 - o status offenses (c8ad1a, c8ad2a, c8ad3a).
 - o interpersonal violence (c8ad26a, c8ad27a, c8ad28a, c8ad29a, c8ad30a, c8ad32a)
- 2 summary scales
 - o index offenses (c8ad10a, c8ad15a, c8ad16a, c8ad20a, c8ad22a, c8ad26a, c8ad27a, c8ad28a, c8ad30a, c8ad31a, c8ad32a, c8ad33a, c8ad34a)
 - o general delinquency (c8ad5a, c8ad8a, c8ad9a, c8ad10a, c8ad13a, c8ad14a, c8ad15a, c8ad16a, c8ad18a, c8ad19a, c8ad20a, c8ad21a, c8ad22a, c8ad23a, c8ad24a, c8ad25a, c8ad26a, c8ad27a, c8ad28a, c8ad29a, c8ad30a, c8ad31a, c8ad32a, c8ad33a, c8ad34a)

The internal consistency of each score was examined by computing the alpha coefficients for the normative and high- risk control samples:

Subscale	Normative Raw Alpha_	Control Raw Alpha_
SRD Status Offenses	0.46	0.44
SRD Interpersonal Violence	0.59	0.58
SRD Index Offenses	0.71	0.82
SRD General Offenses	0.83	0.86

IV. Differences Between Groups

T-tests of equality of means were conducted comparing the normative (non-high-risk) sample to the high-risk control sample. Results are listed below.

Variable	Class	N	Mean	StdErr	Probt
SRD Status Offenses	C	120	0.2083	0.0243	0.1073
SRD Status Offenses	N	237	0.1632	0.0156	.
SRD Interpersonal Violence	C	120	0.075	0.0131	0.0157
SRD Interpersonal Violence	N	237	0.0415	0.0073	.
SRD Index Offenses	C	120	0.0526	0.0111	0.0182
SRD Index Offenses	N	237	0.0286	0.0045	.
SRD General Delinquency	C	120	0.0567	0.0099	0.0388

Variable	Class	N	Mean	StdErr	Probt
SRD General Delinquency	N	237	0.0356	0.0052	.

V. Recommendations for Use

The analyst should be cautioned that the scales are extremely skewed towards the lower part of the scale, because of the low frequency of the occurrence. This is true for the method of scoring as calculated here, but is even more exaggerated if the second question for each item, frequency of events is used. The frequency of most delinquent behaviors are highly skewed with higher variances for offenders. If frequency of events scores are used, the analyst should be advised that there are outliers present and each item should be inspected and evaluated for them.

For study of whether the student was associated with somebody else while committing the offense, or under substance influence, the analyst should refer to the individual items.

VI. Item and Scale Means and SD's

Control Sample: Items:

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev
C10AD1A	Past Year, Have You Run Away From Home?	119	0.092	0.291
C10AD2A	Past Yr, Skipped Class/Schl w/out Excuse	119	0.370	0.485
C10AD3A	Past Yr, Lied About Age to Get Something	120	0.167	0.374
C10AD4A	Past Year, Hitchhiked Where Illegal?	119	0.008	0.092
C10AD5A	Past Yr, Have You Carried Hidden Weapon?	119	0.092	0.291
C10AD6A	Been Too Loud/Rowdy & People Complained?	119	0.227	0.421
C10AD7A	Past Yr, Begged for Money From Strangers	119	0.034	0.181
C10AD8A	Past Year, Been Drunk in a Public Place?	119	0.050	0.220
C10AD9A	Past Yr, Damaged/Destroyed Others Prop?	120	0.158	0.367
C10AD10A	Have or Tried to Set Something on Fire?	120	0.017	0.129
C10AD11A	Past Yr, Have Avoided Paying for Things?	120	0.075	0.264
C10AD12A	Past Yr, Have Tried to Steal Something?	120	0.083	0.278
C10AD13A	Past Yr, Tried Stealing Item Worth < \$5	120	0.117	0.322
C10AD14A	Past Year, Tried Stealing \$5-\$50 Item?	120	0.050	0.219
C10AD15A	Past Year, Tried Stealing \$50-\$100 Item?	120	0.042	0.201
C10AD16A	Past Year, Tried Stealing Item > \$100?	120	0.050	0.219
C10AD17A	Past Year, Stolen Any Item From a Store?	120	0.108	0.312
C10AD18A	Past Year, Stolen Someones Purse/Wallet?	120	0	0
C10AD19A	Past Year, Stolen Something From a Car?	120	0.033	0.180
C10AD20A	Past Yr, Knowingly Bought/Sold Stolen Prop	120	0.042	0.201
C10AD21A	Past Yr, Taken Vehicle W/O Owners Permission	120	0.108	0.312
C10AD22A	Past Yr, Have Tried/Stole Motor Vehicle?	120	0.042	0.201
C10AD23A	Past Year, Used Fake Money/Checks to Pay?	120	0	0
C10AD24A	Past Yr, Used Credit/Bank Card W/O Permission	120	0.008	0.091
C10AD25A	Past Year, Have Tried to Cheat Someone?	120	0.050	0.219
C10AD26A	Past Yr, Attacked Ind W/ Intent to Hurt/Kill	120	0.042	0.201
C10AD27A	Past Yr, Hit Someone W/ Idea of Hurting Them	120	0.242	0.430
C10AD28A	Past Yr, Used Weapon to Get \$ From People?	120	0.008	0.091
C10AD29A	Past Yr, Thrown Objects at People?	120	0.067	0.250
C10AD30A	Past Yr, Been Involved in Any Gang Fights?	120	0.075	0.264
C10AD31A	Past Yr, Paid for Having Sex W/ Someone?	120	0.025	0.157
C10AD32A	Past Yr, Sex W/ Someone Against Their Will	120	0.017	0.129
C10AD33A	Past Yr, Have You Sold Marijuana/Hashish?	120	0.050	0.219
C10AD34A	Past Yr, Have Sold Heroin/Cocaine/LSD?	120	0.033	0.180

Scales:

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
srdsto	'SRD Status Offenses'	120	0.208	0.267	0	1.000
srdipv	'SRD Interpersonal Violence'	120	0.075	0.143	0	0.833
srdind	'SRD Index Offenses'	120	0.053	0.121	0	0.769
srdgen	'SRD General Delinquency'	120	0.057	0.109	0	0.680

Normative Sample: Items:

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev
C10AD1A	Past Year, Have You Run Away From Home?	293	0.072	0.258
C10AD2A	Past Yr, Skipped Class/Schl w/out Excuse	294	0.327	0.470
C10AD3A	Past Yr, Lied About Age to Get Something	295	0.115	0.320
C10AD4A	Past Year, Hitchhiked Where Illegal?	294	0.007	0.082
C10AD5A	Past Yr, Have You Carried Hidden Weapon?	294	0.109	0.312
C10AD6A	Been Too Loud/Rowdy & People Complained?	294	0.180	0.385
C10AD7A	Past Yr, Begged for Money From Strangers	294	0.010	0.101
C10AD8A	Past Year, Been Drunk in a Public Place?	294	0.048	0.213
C10AD9A	Past Yr, Damaged/Destroyed Others Prop?	295	0.092	0.289
C10AD10A	Have or Tried to Set Something on Fire?	295	0.007	0.082
C10AD11A	Past Yr, Have Avoided Paying for Things?	295	0.081	0.274
C10AD12A	Past Yr, Have Tried to Steal Something?	295	0.061	0.240
C10AD13A	Past Yr, Tried Stealing Item Worth < \$5	295	0.088	0.284
C10AD14A	Past Year, Tried Stealing \$5-\$50 Item?	295	0.061	0.240
C10AD15A	Past Year, Tried Stealing \$50-\$100 Item?	295	0.020	0.141
C10AD16A	Past Year, Tried Stealing Item > \$100?	295	0.024	0.152
C10AD17A	Past Year, Stolen Any Item From a Store?	295	0.092	0.289
C10AD18A	Past Year, Stolen Someones Purse/Wallet?	295	0.010	0.101
C10AD19A	Past Year, Stolen Something From a Car?	295	0.020	0.141
C10AD20A	Past Yr, Knowingly Bought/Sold Stolen Prop	295	0.037	0.190
C10AD21A	Past Yr, Taken Vehicle W/O Owners Permission	295	0.061	0.240
C10AD22A	Past Yr, Have Tried/Stole Motor Vehicle?	295	0.020	0.141
C10AD23A	Past Year, Used Fake Money/Checks to Pay?	295	0.003	0.058
C10AD24A	Past Yr, Used Credit/Bank Card W/O Permission	295	0.003	0.058
C10AD25A	Past Year, Have Tried to Cheat Someone?	295	0.031	0.172
C10AD26A	Past Yr, Attacked Ind W/ Intent to Hurt/Kill	295	0.027	0.163
C10AD27A	Past Yr, Hit Someone W/ Idea of Hurting Them	295	0.149	0.357
C10AD28A	Past Yr, Used Weapon to Get \$ From People?	295	0.017	0.129
C10AD29A	Past Yr, Thrown Objects at People?	295	0.027	0.163
C10AD30A	Past Yr, Been Involved in Any Gang Fights?	295	0.041	0.198
C10AD31A	Past Yr, Paid for Having Sex W/ Someone?	295	0.010	0.101
C10AD32A	Past Yr, Sex W/ Someone Against Their Will	295	0.003	0.058
C10AD33A	Past Yr, Have You Sold Marijuana/Hashish?	295	0.051	0.220
C10AD34A	Past Yr, Have Sold Heroin/Cocaine/LSD?	295	0.014	0.116

Scales:

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
srdsto	'SRD Status Offenses'	295	0.171	0.249	0	1.000
srdipv	'SRD Interpersonal Violence'	295	0.044	0.115	0	0.833
srdind	'SRD Index Offenses'	295	0.032	0.081	0	0.769
srdgen	'SRD General Delinquency'	295	0.039	0.083	0	0.600

VII. Scale Correlations

Full sample:

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 357 Prob > r under H0: Rho=0				
	srdsto	srdipv	srdind	srdgen
srdsto 'SRD Status Offenses'	1.00000	0.33436 <.0001	0.35466 <.0001	0.45377 <.0001
srdipv 'SRD Interpersonal Violence'	0.33436 <.0001	1.00000	0.83100 <.0001	0.78325 <.0001
srdind 'SRD Index Offenses'	0.35466 <.0001	0.83100 <.0001	1.00000	0.92073 <.0001
srdgen 'SRD General Delinquency'	0.45377 <.0001	0.78325 <.0001	0.92073 <.0001	1.00000

References:

Elliot, D. S., Huizinga, D., & Menard, S. (1989). Multiple problem youth: Delinquency, substance use, and mental health problems. New York: Springer-Verlag.

Huizinga, D. & Elliott, D.S. (1986) Reassessing the Reliability and Validity of Self-Report Delinquency Measures. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* (2) 293-327.

Klein, M.W. (ed), (1988). Cross-National Research in Self-Reported Crime and Delinquency. Kluwer Academic Publishers, Netherlands.