

Self-Reported Delinquency
Grade 10 / Year 11
Fast Track Project Technical Report
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Table of Contents

- I. Scale Description
- II. Report Sample
- III. Scaling
- IV. Differences Between Groups
- V. Recommendations for Use
- VI. Item and Scale Means and SD's
- VII. Item and Scale Correlations

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 : C11AD

Scored : SRD11

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 11 normative (n=387) and Cohort 1 high-risk control samples (n=155, overlap is 79). One hundred eighteen students were missing the entire measure (25% of the sample), including 102 from the normative sample (25% of the sample) and 45 of the control sample (25% of the sample). The non-respondents included 22

students from the Durham site, 28 from Nashville, 39 from Penn State and 29 from the Seattle site. The non-respondents included 67 white and 42 black students, 75 boys and 43 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 (c11ad1a, c11ad2a, c11ad3a).
 - o interpersonal violence (c11ad26a, c11ad27a, c11ad28a, c11ad29a, c11ad30a, c11ad32a)

- 2 summary scales
 - o index offenses (c11ad10a, c11ad15a, c11ad16a, c11ad20a, c11ad22a, c11ad26a, c11ad27a, c11ad28a, c11ad30a, c11ad31a, c11ad32a, c11ad33a, c11ad34a)
 - o general delinquency (c11ad5a, c11ad8a, c11ad9a, c11ad10a, c11ad13a, c11ad14a, c11ad15a, c11ad16a, c11ad18a, c11ad19a, c11ad20a, c11ad21a, c11ad22a, c11ad23a, c11ad24a, c11ad25a, c11ad26a, c11ad27a, c11ad28a, c11ad29a, c11ad30a, c11ad31a, c11ad32a, c11ad33a, c11ad34a)

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	0.35	0.17
SRD Interpersonal Violence	0.65	0.48
SRD Index Offenses	0.84	0.64
SRD General Offenses	0.85	0.82

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	110	0.1515	0.02	0.7158
SRD Status Offenses	N	234	0.1425	0.0142	.
SRD Interpersonal Violence	C	110	0.0333	0.0088	0.5714
SRD Interpersonal Violence	N	235	0.027	0.0065	.
SRD Index Offenses	C	110	0.0224	0.006	0.6599
SRD Index Offenses	N	235	0.0268	0.0063	.
SRD General Delinquency	C	110	0.0309	0.007	0.7768
SRD General Delinquency	N	235	0.0283	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
C11AD1A	Past Year, Have You Run Away From Home?	110	0.036	0.188
C11AD2A	Past Yr, Skipped Class/Schl w/out Excuse	110	0.300	0.460
C11AD3A	Past Yr, Lied About Age to Get Something	110	0.118	0.324
C11AD4A	Past Year, Hitchhiked Where Illegal?	110	0.009	0.095
C11AD5A	Past Yr, Have You Carried Hidden Weapon?	110	0.109	0.313
C11AD6A	Been Too Loud/Rowdy & People Complained?	110	0.164	0.372
C11AD7A	Past Yr, Begged for Money From Strangers	110	0.027	0.164
C11AD8A	Past Year, Been Drunk in a Public Place?	110	0.055	0.228
C11AD9A	Past Yr, Damaged/Destroyed Others Prop?	110	0.073	0.261
C11AD10A	Have or Tried to Set Something on Fire?	110	0	0
C11AD11A	Past Yr, Have Avoided Paying for Things?	110	0.036	0.188
C11AD12A	Past Yr, Have Tried to Steal Something?	110	0.018	0.134
C11AD13A	Past Yr, Tried Stealing Item Worth < \$5	110	0.073	0.261
C11AD14A	Past Year, Tried Stealing \$5-\$50 Item?	110	0.045	0.209
C11AD15A	Past Year, Tried Stealing \$50-\$100 Item?	110	0	0
C11AD16A	Past Year, Tried Stealing Item > \$100?	110	0.018	0.134
C11AD17A	Past Year, Stolen Any Item From a Store?	110	0.064	0.245
C11AD18A	Past Year, Stolen Someones Purse/Wallet?	110	0.009	0.095
C11AD19A	Past Year, Stolen Something From a Car?	110	0.027	0.164
C11AD20A	Past Yr, Knowingly Bought/Sold Stolen Prop	110	0.027	0.164
C11AD21A	Past Yr, Taken Vehicle W/O Owners Permission	110	0.018	0.134
C11AD22A	Past Yr, Have Tried/Stole Motor Vehicle?	110	0	0
C11AD23A	Past Year, Used Fake Money/Checks to Pay?	110	0.009	0.095
C11AD24A	Past Yr, Used Credit/Bank Card W/O Permission	110	0	0
C11AD25A	Past Year, Have Tried to Cheat Someone?	110	0.027	0.164
C11AD26A	Past Yr, Attacked Ind W/ Intent to Hurt/Kill	110	0.009	0.095
C11AD27A	Past Yr, Hit Someone W/ Idea of Hurting Them	110	0.118	0.324
C11AD28A	Past Yr, Used Weapon to Get \$ From People?	110	0	0
C11AD29A	Past Yr, Thrown Objects at People?	110	0.036	0.188
C11AD30A	Past Yr, Been Involved in Any Gang Fights?	110	0.036	0.188
C11AD31A	Past Yr, Paid for Having Sex W/ Someone?	110	0.009	0.095
C11AD32A	Past Yr, Sex W/ Someone Against Their Will	110	0	0
C11AD33A	Past Yr, Have You Sold Marijuana/Hashish?	110	0.064	0.245
C11AD34A	Past Yr, Have Sold Heroin/Cocaine/LSD?	110	0.009	0.095

Scales:

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
srdsto	'SRD Status Offenses'	110	0.152	0.210	0	0.667
srdipv	'SRD Interpersonal Violence'	110	0.033	0.093	0	0.500
srdind	'SRD Index Offenses'	110	0.022	0.063	0	0.385
srdgen	'SRD General Delinquency'	110	0.031	0.074	0	0.520

Normative Sample: Items:

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev
C11AD1A	Past Year, Have You Run Away From Home?	284	0.018	0.132
C11AD2A	Past Yr, Skipped Class/Schl w/out Excuse	284	0.317	0.466
C11AD3A	Past Yr, Lied About Age to Get Something	284	0.092	0.289
C11AD4A	Past Year, Hitchhiked Where Illegal?	284	0.004	0.059
C11AD5A	Past Yr, Have You Carried Hidden Weapon?	283	0.099	0.299
C11AD6A	Been Too Loud/Rowdy & People Complained?	285	0.130	0.337
C11AD7A	Past Yr, Begged for Money From Strangers	285	0.004	0.059
C11AD8A	Past Year, Been Drunk in a Public Place?	285	0.053	0.224
C11AD9A	Past Yr, Damaged/Destroyed Others Prop?	285	0.049	0.217
C11AD10A	Have or Tried to Set Something on Fire?	285	0.004	0.059
C11AD11A	Past Yr, Have Avoided Paying for Things?	285	0.056	0.231
C11AD12A	Past Yr, Have Tried to Steal Something?	285	0.025	0.155
C11AD13A	Past Yr, Tried Stealing Item Worth < \$5	285	0.049	0.217
C11AD14A	Past Year, Tried Stealing \$5-\$50 Item?	285	0.039	0.193
C11AD15A	Past Year, Tried Stealing \$50-\$100 Item?	285	0.018	0.132
C11AD16A	Past Year, Tried Stealing Item > \$100?	285	0.025	0.155
C11AD17A	Past Year, Stolen Any Item From a Store?	285	0.067	0.250
C11AD18A	Past Year, Stolen Someones Purse/Wallet?	285	0.007	0.084
C11AD19A	Past Year, Stolen Something From a Car?	285	0.025	0.155
C11AD20A	Past Yr, Knowingly Bought/Sold Stolen Prop	285	0.039	0.193
C11AD21A	Past Yr, Taken Vehicle W/O Owners Permission	285	0.042	0.201
C11AD22A	Past Yr, Have Tried/Stole Motor Vehicle?	285	0.014	0.118
C11AD23A	Past Year, Used Fake Money/Checks to Pay?	285	0.007	0.084
C11AD24A	Past Yr, Used Credit/Bank Card W/O Permission	285	0.007	0.084
C11AD25A	Past Year, Have Tried to Cheat Someone?	285	0.021	0.144
C11AD26A	Past Yr, Attacked Ind W/ Intent to Hurt/Kill	285	0.018	0.132
C11AD27A	Past Yr, Hit Someone W/ Idea of Hurting Them	285	0.067	0.250
C11AD28A	Past Yr, Used Weapon to Get \$ From People?	285	0.011	0.102
C11AD29A	Past Yr, Thrown Objects at People?	285	0.025	0.155
C11AD30A	Past Yr, Been Involved in Any Gang Fights?	285	0.053	0.224
C11AD31A	Past Yr, Paid for Having Sex W/ Someone?	284	0.004	0.059
C11AD32A	Past Yr, Sex W/ Someone Against Their Will	285	0	0
C11AD33A	Past Yr, Have You Sold Marijuana/Hashish?	285	0.070	0.256
C11AD34A	Past Yr, Have Sold Heroin/Cocaine/LSD?	285	0.032	0.175

Scales:

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
srdsto	'SRD Status Offenses'	284	0.142	0.215	0	1.000
srdipv	'SRD Interpersonal Violence'	285	0.029	0.100	0	0.833
srdind	'SRD Index Offenses'	285	0.027	0.093	0	0.692
srdgen	'SRD General Delinquency'	285	0.031	0.084	0	0.542

VII. Scale Correlations

Full sample:

Pearson Correlation Coefficients Prob > r under H0: Rho=0 Number of Observations				
	srdsto	srdipv	srdind	srdgen
srdsto 'SRD Status Offenses'	1.00000 344	0.19185 0.0003 344	0.25091 <.0001 344	0.36870 <.0001 344
srdipv 'SRD Interpersonal Violence'	0.19185 0.0003 344	1.00000 345	0.81710 <.0001 345	0.76924 <.0001 345
srdind 'SRD Index Offenses'	0.25091 <.0001 344	0.81710 <.0001 345	1.00000 345	0.91966 <.0001 345
srdgen 'SRD General Delinquency'	0.36870 <.0001 344	0.76924 <.0001 345	0.91966 <.0001 345	1.00000 345

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.