

Self-Reported Delinquency
Grade 11/Year 12
FAST Track Project Technical Report
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December 12, 2003

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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 : C12AD

Scored : SRD12

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. The Self-Report of Delinquency (SRD) used in the Fast Track Project 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

Analyses were conducted on Cohort 1 year 12 normative (n=387) and Cohort 1 high-risk control samples (n=155, overlap is 79). One hundred nineteen students were missing the entire measure (26% of the sample), including 105 from the normative sample (27% of the sample) and 44 of the control sample (28% of the sample). The non-respondents included 17 students

from the Durham site, 39 from Nashville, 29 from Pennsylvania and 34 from the Seattle site.

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 (c12ad1a, c12ad2a, c12ad3a).
 - o interpersonal violence (c12ad26a, c12ad27a, c12ad28a, c12ad29a, c12ad30a, c12ad32a)

- 2 summary scales
 - o index offenses (c12ad10a, c12ad15a, c12ad16a, c12ad20a, c12ad22a, c12ad26a, c12ad27a, c12ad28a, c12ad30a, c12ad31a, c12ad32a, c12ad33a, c12ad34a)
 - o general delinquency (c12ad5a, c12ad8a, c12ad9a, c12ad10a, c12ad13a, c12ad14a, c12ad15a, c12ad16a, c12ad18a, c12ad19a, c12ad20a, c12ad21a, c12ad22a, c12ad23a, c12ad24a, c12ad25a, c12ad26a, c12ad27a, c12ad28a, c12ad29a, c12ad30a, c12ad31a, c12ad32a, c12ad33a, c12ad34a)

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	0.33	0.31
SRD Interpersonal Violence	0.56	0.68
SRD Index Offenses	0.74	0.57
SRD General Offenses	0.82	0.79

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	0.1576	0.0214	0.9854
SRD Status Offenses	N	232	0.158	0.0145	.
SRD Interpersonal Violence	C	110	0.0273	0.0095	0.1248
SRD Interpersonal Violence	N	233	0.0136	0.0041	.
SRD Index Offenses	C	110	0.0259	0.0061	0.1960
SRD Index Offenses	N	233	0.0162	0.0043	.
SRD General Delinquency	C	110	0.0287	0.0065	0.1706
SRD General Delinquency	N	233	0.0189	0.0039	.

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 is highly skewed with higher variances for offenders. If frequency of events scores is 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
C12AD1A	Past Year, Have You Run Away From Home?	109	0.073	0.262
C12AD2A	Past Yr, Skipped Class/Schl w/out Excuse	110	0.318	0.468
C12AD3A	Past Yr, Lied About Age to Get Something	110	0.082	0.275
C12AD4A	Past Year, Hitchhiked Where Illegal?	109	0.037	0.189
C12AD5A	Past Yr, Have You Carried Hidden Weapon?	110	0.073	0.261
C12AD6A	Been Too Loud/Rowdy & People Complained?	110	0.118	0.324
C12AD7A	Past Yr, Begged for Money From Strangers	109	0.037	0.189
C12AD8A	Past Year, Been Drunk in a Public Place?	110	0.064	0.245
C12AD9A	Past Yr, Damaged/Destroyed Others Prop?	110	0.036	0.188
C12AD10A	Have or Tried to Set Something on Fire?	110	0.018	0.134
C12AD11A	Past Yr, Have Avoided Paying for Things?	110	0.064	0.245
C12AD12A	Past Yr, Have Tried to Steal Something?	110	0.045	0.209
C12AD13A	Past Yr, Tried Stealing Item Worth < \$5	110	0.064	0.245
C12AD14A	Past Year, Tried Stealing \$5-\$50 Item?	110	0.036	0.188
C12AD15A	Past Year, Tried Stealing \$50-\$100 Item?	110	0.027	0.164
C12AD16A	Past Year, Tried Stealing Item > \$100?	110	0.027	0.164
C12AD17A	Past Year, Stolen Any Item From a Store?	110	0.073	0.261
C12AD18A	Past Year, Stolen Someones Purse/Wallet?	110	0	0
C12AD19A	Past Year, Stolen Something From a Car?	110	0.027	0.164
C12AD20A	Past Yr, Knowingly Bought/Sold Stolen Prop	110	0.036	0.188
C12AD21A	Past Yr, Taken Vehicle W/O Owners Permission	110	0.036	0.188
C12AD22A	Past Yr, Have Tried/Stole Motor Vehicle?	110	0.009	0.095
C12AD23A	Past Year, Used Fake Money/Checks to Pay?	110	0	0
C12AD24A	Past Yr, Used Credit/Bank Card W/O Permission	110	0	0
C12AD25A	Past Year, Have Tried to Cheat Someone?	110	0.009	0.095
C12AD26A	Past Yr, Attacked Ind W/ Intent to Hurt/Kill	110	0.009	0.095
C12AD27A	Past Yr, Hit Someone W/ Idea of Hurting Them	110	0.082	0.275
C12AD28A	Past Yr, Used Weapon to Get \$ From People?	110	0.009	0.095
C12AD29A	Past Yr, Thrown Objects at People?	110	0.036	0.188
C12AD30A	Past Yr, Been Involved in Any Gang Fights?	110	0.018	0.134
C12AD31A	Past Yr, Paid for Having Sex W/ Someone?	110	0.009	0.095
C12AD32A	Past Yr, Sex W/ Someone Against Their Will	110	0.009	0.095
C12AD33A	Past Yr, Have You Sold Marijuana/Hashish?	110	0.073	0.261
C12AD34A	Past Yr, Have Sold Heroin/Cocaine/LSD?	110	0.009	0.095

Scales:**Control Sample:**

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
srdsto	'SRD Status Offenses'	110	0.158	0.224	0	1.000
srdipv	'SRD Interpersonal Violence'	110	0.027	0.100	0	0.667
srdind	'SRD Index Offenses'	110	0.026	0.064	0	0.308
srdgen	'SRD General Delinquency'	110	0.029	0.068	0	0.360

Normative Sample:**Items:**

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev
C12AD1A	Past Year, Have You Run Away From Home?	280	0.032	0.177
C12AD2A	Past Yr, Skipped Class/Schl w/out Excuse	279	0.341	0.475
C12AD3A	Past Yr, Lied About Age to Get Something	280	0.107	0.310
C12AD4A	Past Year, Hitchhiked Where Illegal?	280	0	0
C12AD5A	Past Yr, Have You Carried Hidden Weapon?	280	0.064	0.246
C12AD6A	Been Too Loud/Rowdy & People Complained?	280	0.086	0.280
C12AD7A	Past Yr, Begged for Money From Strangers	280	0.011	0.103
C12AD8A	Past Year, Been Drunk in a Public Place?	280	0.039	0.195
C12AD9A	Past Yr, Damaged/Destroyed Others Prop?	280	0.025	0.156
C12AD10A	Have or Tried to Set Something on Fire?	280	0.007	0.084
C12AD11A	Past Yr, Have Avoided Paying for Things?	280	0.061	0.239
C12AD12A	Past Yr, Have Tried to Steal Something?	280	0.032	0.177
C12AD13A	Past Yr, Tried Stealing Item Worth < \$5	280	0.039	0.195
C12AD14A	Past Year, Tried Stealing \$5-\$50 Item?	280	0.046	0.211
C12AD15A	Past Year, Tried Stealing \$50-\$100 Item?	279	0.029	0.167
C12AD16A	Past Year, Tried Stealing Item > \$100?	280	0.014	0.119
C12AD17A	Past Year, Stolen Any Item From a Store?	280	0.050	0.218
C12AD18A	Past Year, Stolen Someones Purse/Wallet?	280	0.004	0.060
C12AD19A	Past Year, Stolen Something From a Car?	281	0.011	0.103
C12AD20A	Past Yr, Knowingly Bought/Sold Stolen Prop	281	0.043	0.203
C12AD21A	Past Yr, Taken Vehicle W/O Owners Permission	281	0.014	0.119
C12AD22A	Past Yr, Have Tried/Stole Motor Vehicle?	281	0.007	0.084
C12AD23A	Past Year, Used Fake Money/Checks to Pay?	281	0	0
C12AD24A	Past Yr, Used Credit/Bank Card W/O Permission	281	0.007	0.084
C12AD25A	Past Year, Have Tried to Cheat Someone?	281	0.021	0.145
C12AD26A	Past Yr, Attacked Ind W/ Intent to Hurt/Kill	281	0.011	0.103
C12AD27A	Past Yr, Hit Someone W/ Idea of Hurting Them	281	0.046	0.210
C12AD28A	Past Yr, Used Weapon to Get \$ From People?	281	0.004	0.060
C12AD29A	Past Yr, Thrown Objects at People?	281	0.014	0.119
C12AD30A	Past Yr, Been Involved in Any Gang Fights?	281	0.021	0.145
C12AD31A	Past Yr, Paid for Having Sex W/ Someone?	281	0	0
C12AD32A	Past Yr, Sex W/ Someone Against Their Will	281	0.004	0.060
C12AD33A	Past Yr, Have You Sold Marijuana/Hashish?	281	0.043	0.203
C12AD34A	Past Yr, Have Sold Heroin/Cocaine/LSD?	281	0.011	0.103

Scales:

Normative Sample:

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
srdsto	'SRD Status Offenses'	280	0.160	0.224	0	1.000
srdipv	'SRD Interpersonal Violence'	281	0.017	0.071	0	0.667
srdind	'SRD Index Offenses'	281	0.018	0.066	0	0.769
srdgen	'SRD General Delinquency'	281	0.021	0.062	0	0.680

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 342	0.21387 <.0001 342	0.31996 <.0001 342	0.39541 <.0001 342
srdipv 'SRD Interpersonal Violence'	0.21387 <.0001 342	1.00000 343	0.73453 <.0001 343	0.72056 <.0001 343
srdind 'SRD Index Offenses'	0.31996 <.0001 342	0.73453 <.0001 343	1.00000 343	0.92828 <.0001 343
srdgen 'SRD General Delinquency'	0.39541 <.0001 342	0.72056 <.0001 343	0.92828 <.0001 343	1.00000 343

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.