

**Self-Reported Delinquency**  
Grade 7/Year 8  
FAST Track Project Technical Report  
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**Citation**

*Instrument*

Elliot, Huizinga, Heton, This measure was used in the Pittsburgh Youth Study.

**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* : c8ad

*Scored* : SRD8

**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; Klien, 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 8 normative (n=387) and Cohort 1 high-risk control samples (n=155, overlap is 79). Seventy-nine students were missing the entire measure (17% of the sample), including 69 from the normative sample (18% of the sample) and 24 of the control sample (15% of the sample). The non-respondents included 15 students from the Durham site, 23 from Nashville, 17 from Pennsylvania and 24 from the Seattle site. The non-respondents included 34 white and 35 black students, 47 boys and 32 girls.

### III. Scaling

The following delinquency scales were created by taking the mean across items outlined below. The items capture whether or not the child committed certain delinquent behaviors:

- 2 offense-general category scales:
  - o status offenses (c8ad81a, c8ad82a, c8ad83a).
  - o interpersonal violence (c8ad826a, c8ad827a, c8ad828a, c8ad829a, c8ad830a, c8ad832a)
  
- 2 summary scales
  - o index offenses (c8ad810a, c8ad815a, c8ad816a, c8ad820a, c8ad822a, c8ad826a, c8ad827a, c8ad828a, c8ad830a, c8ad831a, c8ad832a, c8ad833a, c8ad834a)
  - o general delinquency (c8ad85a, c8ad88a, c8ad89a, c8ad810a, c8ad813a, c8ad814a, c8ad815a, c8ad816a, c8ad818a, c8ad819a, c8ad820a, c8ad821a, c8ad822a, c8ad823a, c8ad824a, c8ad825a, c8ad826a, c8ad827a, c8ad828a, c8ad829a, c8ad830a, c8ad831a, c8ad832a, c8ad833a, c8ad834a)

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

<b>Subscale</b>	<b>Normative Raw Alpha_</b>	<b>Control Raw Alpha_</b>
SRD Status Offenses	0.35516	0.24359
SRD Interpersonal Violence	0.49134	0.48322
SRD Index Offenses	0.74970	0.66038
SRD General Offenses	0.78564	0.72427

#### 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.

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>StdErr</b>	<b>Probt</b>
SRD Status Offenses	C	131	0.1628	0.0199	0.0016
SRD Status Offenses	N	253	0.0949	0.0115	.
SRD Interpersonal Violence	C	131	0.0763	0.0119	<.0001
SRD Interpersonal Violence	N	253	0.027	0.0057	.
SRD Index Offenses	C	131	0.0417	0.0075	0.0009
SRD Index Offenses	N	253	0.0152	0.0041	.
SRD General Delinquency	C	131	0.047	0.0065	0.0001
SRD General Delinquency	N	253	0.0201	0.0037	.

## **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
C8AD1A	Past Year, Have You Run Away From Home?	131	0.076	0.267
C8AD2A	Past Yr, Skipped Class/Schl w/out Excuse	131	0.275	0.448
C8AD3A	Past Yr, Lied About Age to Get Something	131	0.137	0.346
C8AD4A	Past Year, Hitchhiked Where Illegal?	131	0.015	0.123
C8AD5A	Past Yr, Have You Carried Hidden Weapon?	131	0.115	0.320
C8AD6A	Been Too Loud/Rowdy & People Complained?	131	0.191	0.394
C8AD7A	Past Yr, Begged for Money From Strangers	131	0.038	0.192
C8AD8A	Past Year, Been Drunk in a Public Place?	131	0.023	0.150
C8AD9A	Past Yr, Damaged/Destroyed Others Prop?	131	0.137	0.346
C8AD10A	Have or Tried to Set Something on Fire?	131	0.038	0.192
C8AD11A	Past Yr, Have Avoided Paying for Things?	131	0.076	0.267
C8AD12A	Past Yr, Have Tried to Steal Something?	131	0.061	0.240
C8AD13A	Past Yr, Tried Stealing Item Worth < \$5	131	0.092	0.290
C8AD14A	Past Year, Tried Stealing \$5-\$50 Item?	131	0.061	0.240
C8AD15A	Past Year, Tried Stealing \$50-\$100 Item?	131	0.015	0.123
C8AD16A	Past Year, Tried Stealing Item > \$100?	131	0.015	0.123
C8AD17A	Past Year, Stolen Any Item From a Store?	131	0.092	0.290
C8AD18A	Past Year, Stolen Someones Purse/Wallet?	131	0.008	0.087
C8AD19A	Past Year, Stolen Something From a Car?	131	0	0
C8AD20A	Past Yr, Knowingly Bought/Sold Stolen Pr	131	0.015	0.123
C8AD21A	Past Yr, Taken Vehicle W/O Owners Permis	131	0.046	0.210
C8AD22A	Past Yr, Have Tried/Stole Motor Vehicle?	131	0.023	0.150
C8AD23A	Past Year, Used Fake Money/Checks to Pay	131	0.008	0.087
C8AD24A	Past Yr, Used Credit/Bank Card W/O Permi	131	0	0
C8AD25A	Past Year, Have Tried to Cheat Someone?	131	0.038	0.192
C8AD26A	Past Yr, Attacked Ind W/ Intent to Hurt/	131	0.023	0.150
C8AD27A	Past Yr, Hit Someone W/ Idea of Hurting	131	0.214	0.412
C8AD28A	Past Yr, Used Weapon to Get \$ From Peopl	131	0.031	0.173
C8AD29A	Past Yr, Thrown Objects at People?	131	0.107	0.310
C8AD30A	Past Yr, Been Involved in Any Gang Fight	131	0.069	0.254
C8AD31A	Past Yr, Paid for Having Sex W/ Someone?	131	0.015	0.123
C8AD32A	Past Yr, Sex W/ Someone Against Their Wi	131	0.015	0.123
C8AD33A	Past Yr, Have You Sold Marijuana/Hashish	131	0.046	0.210
C8AD34A	Past Yr, Have Sold Heroin/Cocaine/LSD?	131	0.023	0.150

#### Scales:

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
Srd8sto	SRD Status Offenses	131	0.163	0.228	0	1.000
srd8ipv	SRD Interpersonal Violence	131	0.076	0.136	0	0.667
srd8ind	SRD Index Offenses	131	0.042	0.086	0	0.538
srd8gen	SRD General Delinquency	131	0.047	0.075	0	0.320

**Normative Sample:****Items:**

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev
C8AD1A	Past Year, Have You Run Away From Home?	318	0.044	0.205
C8AD2A	Past Yr, Skipped Class/Schl w/out Excuse	318	0.204	0.404
C8AD3A	Past Yr, Lied About Age to Get Something	318	0.097	0.297
C8AD4A	Past Year, Hitchhiked Where Illegal?	318	0.009	0.097
C8AD5A	Past Yr, Have You Carried Hidden Weapon?	318	0.079	0.270
C8AD6A	Been Too Loud/Rowdy & People Complained?	318	0.164	0.370
C8AD7A	Past Yr, Begged for Money From Strangers	318	0.013	0.112
C8AD8A	Past Year, Been Drunk in a Public Place?	318	0.009	0.097
C8AD9A	Past Yr, Damaged/Destroyed Others Prop?	318	0.069	0.254
C8AD10A	Have or Tried to Set Something on Fire?	318	0.022	0.147
C8AD11A	Past Yr, Have Avoided Paying for Things?	318	0.057	0.231
C8AD12A	Past Yr, Have Tried to Steal Something?	318	0.035	0.183
C8AD13A	Past Yr, Tried Stealing Item Worth < \$5	318	0.063	0.243
C8AD14A	Past Year, Tried Stealing \$5-\$50 Item?	318	0.028	0.166
C8AD15A	Past Year, Tried Stealing \$50-\$100 Item?	318	0.006	0.079
C8AD16A	Past Year, Tried Stealing Item > \$100?	318	0.009	0.097
C8AD17A	Past Year, Stolen Any Item From a Store?	318	0.079	0.270
C8AD18A	Past Year, Stolen Someones Purse/Wallet?	318	0.009	0.097
C8AD19A	Past Year, Stolen Something From a Car?	318	0.006	0.079
C8AD20A	Past Yr, Knowingly Bought/Sold Stolen Pr	318	0.019	0.136
C8AD21A	Past Yr, Taken Vehicle W/O Owners Permis	318	0.022	0.147
C8AD22A	Past Yr, Have Tried/Stole Motor Vehicle?	318	0.016	0.125
C8AD23A	Past Year, Used Fake Money/Checks to Pay	318	0.003	0.056
C8AD24A	Past Yr, Used Credit/Bank Card W/O Permi	318	0	0
C8AD25A	Past Year, Have Tried to Cheat Someone?	318	0.035	0.183
C8AD26A	Past Yr, Attacked Ind W/ Intent to Hurt/	318	0.016	0.125
C8AD27A	Past Yr, Hit Someone W/ Idea of Hurting	318	0.101	0.301
C8AD28A	Past Yr, Used Weapon to Get \$ From Peopl	318	0.009	0.097
C8AD29A	Past Yr, Thrown Objects at People?	318	0.060	0.237
C8AD30A	Past Yr, Been Involved in Any Gang Fight	318	0.035	0.183
C8AD31A	Past Yr, Paid for Having Sex W/ Someone?	318	0.003	0.056
C8AD32A	Past Yr, Sex W/ Someone Against Their Wi	318	0.006	0.079
C8AD33A	Past Yr, Have You Sold Marijuana/Hashish	318	0.025	0.157
C8AD34A	Past Yr, Have Sold Heroin/Cocaine/LSD?	318	0.009	0.097

**Scales:**

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
Srd8sto	SRD Status Offenses	318	0.115	0.207	0	1.000
srd8ipv	SRD Interpersonal Violence	318	0.038	0.100	0	0.833
srd8ind	SRD Index Offenses	318	0.021	0.071	0	0.769
srd8gen	SRD General Delinquency	318	0.026	0.064	0	0.600

## VII. Scale Correlations

### Full sample:

Pearson Correlation Coefficients, N = 384 Prob >  r  under H0: Rho=0				
	srdsto	srdipv	srdind	srdgen
Srd8sto 'SRD Status Offenses'	1.00000	0.42503 <.0001	0.39458 <.0001	0.47205 <.0001
Srd8ipv 'SRD Interpersonal Violence'	0.42503 <.0001	1.00000	0.83278 <.0001	0.84146 <.0001
Srd8ind 'SRD Index Offenses'	0.39458 <.0001	0.83278 <.0001	1.00000	0.89467 <.0001
Srd8gen 'SRD General Delinquency'	0.47205 <.0001	0.84146 <.0001	0.89467 <.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 Quantative Criminology* (2) 293-327.

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

**SAS Program**

(Scoring Program removed)