

Teacher Report Form
(Grade 8 / Year 9 Update)
Fast Track Project Technical Report
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1/14/02

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Citation

Instrument

Achenbach, T.M. (1991). Manual for the Child Behavior Checklist 4-18 and 1991 Profile. Burlington, VT: University of Vermont Department of Psychiatry. *Teacher Report Form*.

Report

Doyle, S.R. & McCarty, C.A. (2002). Teacher Report Form (Grade 7, Year 8 Update), (Technical Report) [On-line]. Available: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org/>

I. Scale Description and Scoring Method

The Teacher Report Form (TRF; Grade 6) includes 34 items describing externalizing behavior problems. The original version of the TRF consisted of 113 items, and included scales describing Internalizing, Externalizing, Delinquency and Aggression, Attention Problems, Withdrawal, Anxiety/Depression, Somatic Complaints, Social Problems, Thought Problems and Sex Problems. The full measure of 113 items was administered prior to Grade 6. The version used with this update only consists of the Delinquency, Aggression and Externalizing scale item responses. For these 34 items, teachers responded to each item using a 3-point Likert scale (0 - Not True (as far as you know), 1 - Somewhat or Sometimes True, 2 - Very True or Often True).

II. Report Sample

This technical report is based upon Year 9, Cohort 1 data, including both High-Risk Control and Normative samples. With missing cases excluded, the total sample size (including an overlap of 72 respondents) is 439, with 364 Normative and 147 High-Risk Control subjects. The Normative sample consists of 176 (48.35%) males, with an ethnic breakdown of 154 (42.31%) Black, 192 (52.75%) White and 18 (4.95%) others. The High-Risk Control sample consists of 103 (70.07%) males, with an ethnic breakdown of 67 (45.58%) Black, 75 (51.02%) White and 5 (3.40%) other races. The total sample had a lower percentage for one site, Nashville (21.87%) than for Durham (26.65%), Pennsylvania (24.60%) and Seattle (26.88%).

III. Scoring Method

The original scoring method was established by Achenbach and Edelbrock (1991), which included a raw total score and T-score for the dimensions of Delinquent, Aggressive and Externalizing child behavior problems. For the purposes of this study, averages of item responses for each dimension were

calculated if 50% or more of the item responses were present, then the average was multiplied by the number of items for that scale to obtain a total score that would allow determination of the corresponding T-score according to Achenbach's 1991 profiles. The percentage of responses without missing data was 84.3%; an additional 8% of the respondents had 50% or more item responses available allowing for the calculation of an average scale score on greater than 17, but less than 34 items.

IV. Differences Between Groups

A series of independent t-tests were conducted to assess differences between the Normative and High-Risk Control samples. For these analyses, the Normative sample consisted of only Low-Risk respondents, excluding High-Risk subjects previously included in the Normative sample. Results indicated a statistically significant lower mean scale score for the Low-Risk Normative sample:

Scale	t-test	df	p-value	Means	
				Low-Risk Normative	High-Risk Control
Delinquent	-4.38	404	<.0001	2.396	3.993
Aggressive	-5.68	404	<.0001	9.055	15.940
Externalizing	-5.67	404	<.0001	11.441	19.962

V. Recommendations for Use

The TRF allows for the teacher's judgment of a student to be obtained in a standardized fashion. It provides for the assessment and aides in diagnosing anti-social personality disorders. T-scores enable the comparison of the researcher's study group with a normative sample of peers.

VI. Scale Reliability Estimates, Scale and Item Means and Standard Deviations (SD)

Reliability estimates for the three scale scores and descriptive indices for the 34 items and the scale score are presented below. For the scale scores, the average was calculated if 50 percent or more item responses were available. Note, that the Normative sample reported below includes the High-Risk subjects excluded from the group analyses reported above.

<u>Cronbach's Alpha Coefficients</u>	Normative			High-Risk Control		
	Mean	SD	n	Mean	SD	n
Delinquent Behavior						
Aggressive Behavior						
Externalizing						
<i>Average Scale Score of Delinquent Behavior</i>	2.727	3.478	337	3.922	3.519	133
<i>Average Scale Score of Aggressive Behavior</i>	10.555	11.985	335	15.940	11.500	133
<i>Average Scale Score of Externalizing</i>	13.281	14.788	335	19.962	14.163	133

	Normative			High-Risk Control		
	Mean	Std	n	Mean	Std	n
1. Argues a lot.	0.658	0.748	342	0.978	0.748	135
2. Defiant, Talks back to Staff	0.542	0.756	336	0.795	0.808	132
3. Bragging, boasting	0.447	0.671	338	0.701	0.761	137
4. Cruelty, bullying, or meanness to others	0.337	0.602	335	0.552	0.644	134
5. Demands a lot of attention	0.615	0.770	338	0.919	0.773	135
6. Destroys his/her own things	0.080	0.322	336	0.165	0.447	133
7. Destroys property belonging to others	0.116	0.373	335	0.224	0.469	134
8. Disobedient at school	0.544	0.721	333	0.826	0.726	132
9. Disturbs other pupils	0.657	0.753	335	1.000	0.728	133
*10. Doesn't seem to feel guilty after misbehaving	0.540	0.741	335	0.822	0.771	135
11. Easily jealous	0.223	0.507	337	0.351	0.640	134
12. Gets in many fights	0.233	0.519	335	0.373	0.571	134
*13. Hangs around with others who get in trouble	0.546	0.732	335	0.774	0.745	133
*14. Lying or creating	0.346	0.634	332	0.500	0.736	132
15. Talks out of turn	0.701	0.778	335	0.933	0.797	134
16. Physically attacks people	0.152	0.442	335	0.242	0.480	132
*17. Prefers being with older children or youths	0.269	0.550	324	0.370	0.615	127
18. Disrupts class discipline	0.535	0.750	340	0.837	0.755	135
19. Screams a lot	0.161	0.427	347	0.203	0.438	138
20. Showing off or clowning	0.540	0.733	341	0.852	0.778	135
21. Explosive and unpredictable behavior	0.365	0.657	342	0.600	0.731	134
22. Demands must be met immediately, easily frustrated	0.471	0.704	342	0.713	0.729	136
*23. Steals	0.084	0.335	344	0.163	0.460	135
24. Stubborn, sullen, or irritable	0.565	0.699	340	0.827	0.713	133
25. Sudden changes in mood or feelings	0.421	0.639	342	0.615	0.691	135
*26. Swearing or obscene language	0.283	0.550	343	0.412	0.626	136
27. Talks too much	0.713	0.759	345	0.941	0.787	136
28. Teases a lot	0.472	0.684	341	0.746	0.743	134
29. Temper tantrums or hot temper	0.408	0.655	343	0.570	0.697	135
30. Threatens people	0.215	0.489	344	0.375	0.632	136
*31. Tardy to school or class	0.370	0.640	343	0.545	0.721	134
*32. Truancy or unexplained absence	0.251	0.578	343	0.316	0.641	136
33. Unusually loud	0.422	0.696	351	0.623	0.747	138
*34. Uses alcohol or drugs for nonmedical purposes	0.041	0.252	339	0.058	0.291	137

*Items for the Delinquent Behavior scale; the other 25 items comprise the Aggressive Scale

VII. Scale Correlations

Normative sample (n=333) above diagonal, High-Risk Control sample (n=133) below diagonal.

	Delinquent	Aggressive	Externalizing
Delinquent	-	.848	.988
Aggressive	.807	-	.758
Externalizing	.984	.689	-