

Friend Couples Survey
Year 19
Fast Track Project Technical Report
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May 27, 2011

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Citation

Instrument

Straus, M. (1979). Measuring intrafamily conflict and violence: The Conflict Tactics Scales. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 41, 75-88.

Elliott, Delbert, (1983), National Youth Survey: Wave VI, 1983, ICPSR 9948.

Report

Sandoval, J. M. (2011). Friends Couples Survey (Fast Track Project Technical Report), Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Data Sources

Raw: F19G

Scored: FCY19

I. Survey Description

Friend Survey of Couples in Wave XIX is a 6-item derived from Straus' Conflict Tactics. However, the wording of items and values differ from the original questions applied to partners. The Friend Couples Survey measure frequency of occurrence of things a Fast Track respondent might have done to his/her partner as being reported by a nominated friend. The frequency values are: never, once, twice, 3-5 times and more than 5 times.

II. Report Sample

These analyses were conducted on friends nominated by respondents of the first cohort on the high-risk control sample (n = 96) and the normative sample (n = 195) for the nineteenth year of the study. The distribution of respondents by site was as follows: for the control sample, 20 were from Durham, 20 were from Nashville, 28 were from Pennsylvania and 19 were from Washington. For the normative sample, 56 were from Durham, 44 were from Nashville, 58 were from Pennsylvania and 37 were from Washington. A screener question is used to establish eligibility for the Friend Couples Survey questions. The sample was reduced to 243 friends of respondents who reported having a partner.

III. Scaling

A single scale was constructed using 4 items reporting inter-partner physical violence (questions Q341-Q344). The scale for this report was constructed for both the Normative and High-Risk Control samples. The scores were calculated by taking an average of the items comprising the scale. None of the observations were missing 50% or more data. The resulting scale, items that compose it and internal consistencies (Cronbach's coefficient Alpha) are provided below. Comparison of means for the single scale between high and low risk respondents was found significant ($p < .01$).

	Low Risk (n=161)	High Risk (n =82)
Couples Physical Violence (Variables F19G341 – F19G344)	.83	.86

VI. Items Frequency Tables and Means and Standard Deviations

Tables below follow the logic of the questionnaire by displaying frequencies by sample type (High and Low Risk) and violent behaviors between partners.. This is followed by means and standard deviation for the single scale constructed by sample group (normative and control).

	High or low risk sample	
	HI	LO
# times in the last 12 months that your peer or his/her partner did the behavior-- your peer or his/her partner explained his/her side, suggested a compromise, or showed respect for the other's feelings		
Missing	14	34
Never	11	16
Once	10	13
Twice	13	20
3-5 times	11	40
More than 5 times	37	72
# times in the last 12 months that your peer or his/her partner did the behavior-- your peer or his/her partner insulted or swore or shouted or yelled or threatened the other		
Missing	14	34
Never	33	90
Once	10	20
Twice	6	16
3-5 times	14	21
More than 5 times	19	14

	High or low risk sample	
	HI	LO
# times in the last 12 months that your peer or his/her partner did the behavior-- your peer or his/her partner had a sprain, bruise, cut or felt pain the next day because of their fight		
Missing	14	34
Never	70	149
Once	4	6
Twice	4	4
3-5 times	1	1
More than 5 times	3	1

# times in the last 12 months that your peer or his/her partner did the behavior-- your peer or his/her partner pushed, shoved, or slapped the other		
Missing	14	34
Never	69	143
Once	5	8
Twice	3	5
3-5 times	2	5
More than 5 times	3	.
# times in the last 12 months that your peer or his/her partner did the behavior-- your peer or his/her partner punched, kicked or beat up the other		
Missing	14	34
Never	75	156
Once	1	2
Twice	2	2
3-5 times	1	1
More than 5 times	3	.
# times in the last 12 months that your peer or his/her partner did the behavior-- your peer or his/her partner needed to see a doctor because of a fight with the other		
Missing	14	34
Never	79	158
Once	1	2
3-5 times	1	1
More than 5 times	1	.

Constructed Scale

Analysis Variable : FCY19CPL Couples Physical Violence FCY-Y19			
High or low risk sample	N	Mean	Std Dev
HI	96	1.26	0.72
LO	195	1.11	0.37

V. Recommendations for Use

The scale constructed for Friend Couples Survey has good reliability. The user is encouraged to test for associations for variables measuring individual items derived from Straus' Conflict Tactics measure. For these individual variables (f19g339 – f19g344), the presence of missing values should be noted.