

## **Parent Report on Child's Close Friends**

Grade 11/Year 12

Fast Track Project Technical Report

Cynthia Rains

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SAS scoring program

### **Citation**

#### *Instrument*

Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group (CPPRG). (1990). *Parent Report on Child's Close Friends* [On-line]. Available: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

#### *Report*

Rains, C. (2003). *Parent Report on Child's Close Friends* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project website: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

### **Sources**

*Raw:* P120

*Scored:* PCF12

### **I. Scale Description**

The Parent Report on Child's Close Friends measure was first given in year 8 of this study as part of the summer interview. The measure consists of 10 questions, centered around three main topics: the child's best friend, the child's second best friend, and the child's close friends. For each topic, parents are asked the same three questions: 1) does this friend get into trouble with teachers, the police, or other adults?, 2) does this friend do things you disapprove of?, and 3) are you concerned about the negative influence this friend has on your child? The tenth question asks parents, "How much does your son/daughter hang around with kids who get into trouble?" For the first nine items, the parents can use a scale of 1 ("Very much") to 4 ("Not at all"). The last question uses a scale of 1 ("Never") to 5 ("All the time").

### **II. Report Sample**

These exploratory analyses were conducted on the first cohort on the high-risk control sample (n = 155) and the normative sample (n = 387 including overlap, total N = 463) from the twelfth year of the study. 125 records were missing the complete measure. 49 records were missing from the control sample (4 from Durham, 18 from Nashville, 13 from Pennsylvania, and 14 from Washington) and 107 records were missing from the normative sample (14 from Durham, 41 from Nashville, 22 from Pennsylvania, and 30 from Washington). These numbers may reflect some overlap between the two samples.

### III. Scaling

As mentioned earlier, the first nine items use a scale of 1 to 4 (very much, somewhat, a little, and not at all). The last item uses a scale of 1 to 5 (never, almost never, some, frequently, and all the time). The first nine items are reversed in the scoring program in order to be more consistent with other scales of this type (i.e. a low score would indicate less concern while a high score would indicate more concern). Item 10 is rescaled to a four-point scale for consistency with the other items.

Summing across the items for each subscale theoretically derives four scales. The first subscale, *Trouble with Adults*, includes the three items (1, 4, 7) that ask whether the child's best friend, second best friend, and close friends get into trouble with the police, teachers, or other adults. The second subscale, *Parental Disapproval of Friends*, includes the three items (2, 5, 8) that ask whether the parent disapproves of the things the child's best friend, second best friend, and close friends do. The third subscale, *Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends*, includes the three items (3, 6, 9) that ask whether the parent is concerned about the negative influence of the child's best friend, second best friend, and close friends. The fourth scale, *Total Parental Concern*, includes all ten items with item 10 rescaled. For all four scales, a low score indicates that the parents are less concerned about their child's friends and a high score indicates that the parents are more concerned about their child's friends.

Cronbach's alphas were calculated for all four of the subscales and are reported in the following table:

Subscales	Cronbach's Alpha	
	Control Sample	Normative Sample
Trouble with Adults (PCF12TRO)	.69	.70
Parental Disapproval of Friends (PCF12PDA)	.66	.67
Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends (PCF12NIN)	.79	.74
Total Parental Concern (PCF12TPC)	.89	.89

All of the subscales showed an adequate level of internal reliability for both the control and the normative samples.

### IV. Differences between Groups

A series of t-tests comparing the high-risk control sample and the normative sample (including the overlap) indicated significant differences for three of the subscales: *Parental Disapproval of Friends*, *Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends*, and *Total Parental Concern*.

Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends--Subscales

Variable	Normative Sample		Control Sample		DF	t Value	Pr >  t
	Mean	Std Dev	Mean	Std Dev			
Trouble with Adults (PCF12TRO)	4.38	1.89	4.83	2.23	334	1.91	0.0576
Parental Disapproval of Friends (PCF12PDA)	4.94	2.05	5.60	2.24	335	2.67	0.0080
Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends (PCF12NIN)	4.77	2.31	5.50	2.65	335	2.57	0.0107
Total Parental Concern (PCF12TPC)	15.68	6.24	17.73	6.99	335	2.70	0.0072

**V. Recommendations for Use**

Analysts should note that one subscale, *Parental Disapproval of Friends*, was normally distributed for both the control and normative samples. One subscale, *Trouble with Adults*, was positively skewed for the normative sample and for the control sample. The other two subscales, *Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends* and *Total Parental Concern*, were positively skewed for the normative sample and normally distributed for the control sample.

Users of this measure should consider using the overall scale, *Total Parental Concern*, which showed a high level of reliability for both the normative and the control samples. In addition, if the researcher needs further information, the other three scales could be used as well for more detailed data. One other possibility for the measure would be to consider dropping the questions about the second best friend as an acceptable way to reduce the length of the measure without jeopardizing the reliability of the measure. Any variance gained by the three "second best friend" items should be captured by the "close friends" items.

**VI. Item and Scale Means and SDs**

**Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Items Normative Sample Year 12**

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
P12O1	Does Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	277	1.455	0.831	1.000	4.000
P12O2	Does Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	279	1.663	0.902	1.000	4.000
P12O3	Concerned about Negative Influence of Best Friend?-reversed	279	1.613	0.997	1.000	4.000
P12O4	Does 2nd Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	274	1.500	0.857	1.000	4.000
P12O5	Does 2nd Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	275	1.724	0.965	1.000	4.000
P12O6	Concerned about Negative Influence of 2nd Best Friend?-reversed	275	1.625	1.019	1.000	4.000
P12O7	Do Close Friends Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	273	1.597	0.826	1.000	4.000
P12O8	Do Close Friends Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	273	1.762	0.852	1.000	4.000
P12O9	Concerned about Negative Influence of Close Friends?-reversed	273	1.755	0.982	1.000	4.000
P12O10x	Amount of Time TC Spends w/Friends in Trouble	276	1.747	0.714	1.000	4.000

**Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Items Control Sample Year 12**

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
P12O1	Does Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	105	1.581	0.875	1.000	4.000
P12O2	Does Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	106	1.821	0.924	1.000	4.000
P12O3	Concerned about Negative Influence of Best Friend?-reversed	106	1.726	0.961	1.000	4.000
P12O4	Does 2nd Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	103	1.612	0.983	1.000	4.000
P12O5	Does 2nd Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	103	1.913	1.001	1.000	4.000
P12O6	Concerned about Negative Influence of 2nd Best Friend?-reversed	104	1.856	1.127	1.000	4.000
P12O7	Do Close Friends Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	103	1.748	0.915	1.000	4.000
P12O8	Do Close Friends Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	104	1.962	0.924	1.000	4.000
P12O9	Concerned about Negative Influence of Close Friends?-reversed	104	1.990	1.047	1.000	4.000
P12O10x	Amount of Time TC Spends w/Friends in Trouble	105	1.986	0.752	1.000	4.000

**Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Subscales Normative Sample Year 12**

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
PCF12TRO	Trouble with Adults - Close Friends	278	4.496	1.980	1.000	12.000
PCF12PDA	Parental Disapproval of Friends	279	5.086	2.117	1.000	12.000
PCF12NIN	Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends	279	4.932	2.412	1.000	12.000
PCF12TPC	Total Parental Concern - Close Friends	279	16.140	6.487	4.000	40.000

**Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Subscales Control Sample Year 12**

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
PCF12TRO	Trouble with Adults - Close Friends	106	4.830	2.232	1.000	12.000
PCF12PDA	Parental Disapproval of Friends	106	5.604	2.237	1.000	12.000
PCF12NIN	Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends	106	5.500	2.648	1.000	12.000
PCF12TPC	Total Parental Concern - Close Friends	106	17.732	6.990	4.000	40.000

**VII. Item and Scale Correlations**

Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Items Report Sample Year 12

Pearson Correlation Coefficients Prob >  r  under H0: Rho=0 Number of Observations										
	P12O1	P12O2	P12O3	P12O4	P12O5	P12O6	P12O7	P12O8	P12O9	P12O10x
<b>P12O1</b> Does Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	1.00000 335	0.71849 <.0001 335	0.51322 <.0001 335	0.44536 <.0001 330	0.39231 <.0001 329	0.22590 <.0001 330	0.41035 <.0001 328	0.31434 <.0001 329	0.29239 <.0001 329	0.50498 <.0001 330
<b>P12O2</b> Does Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of?-reversed	0.71849 <.0001 335	1.00000 337	0.61658 <.0001 337	0.27789 <.0001 330	0.35438 <.0001 330	0.18672 0.0006 331	0.37676 <.0001 329	0.40298 <.0001 330	0.36128 <.0001 330	0.44246 <.0001 332
<b>P12O3</b> Concerned about Negative Influence of Best Friend?-reversed	0.51322 <.0001 335	0.61658 <.0001 337	1.00000 337	0.23191 <.0001 330	0.24579 <.0001 330	0.39817 <.0001 331	0.36943 <.0001 329	0.32613 <.0001 330	0.55616 <.0001 330	0.42629 <.0001 332
<b>P12O4</b> Does 2nd Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	0.44536 <.0001 330	0.27789 <.0001 330	0.23191 <.0001 330	1.00000 330	0.77838 <.0001 329	0.67119 <.0001 330	0.49934 <.0001 327	0.44269 <.0001 328	0.37703 <.0001 328	0.47806 <.0001 329
<b>P12O5</b> Does 2nd Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of?-reversed	0.39231 <.0001 329	0.35438 <.0001 330	0.24579 <.0001 330	0.77838 <.0001 329	1.00000 330	0.72101 <.0001 330	0.41573 <.0001 327	0.47699 <.0001 328	0.42411 <.0001 328	0.46704 <.0001 329
<b>P12O6</b> Concerned about Negative Influence of 2nd Best Friend?-reversed	0.22590 <.0001 330	0.18672 0.0006 331	0.39817 <.0001 331	0.67119 <.0001 330	0.72101 <.0001 330	1.00000 331	0.36632 <.0001 328	0.38689 <.0001 329	0.55940 <.0001 329	0.38893 <.0001 330
<b>P12O7</b> Do Close Friends Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	0.41035 <.0001 328	0.37676 <.0001 329	0.36943 <.0001 329	0.49934 <.0001 327	0.41573 <.0001 327	0.36632 <.0001 328	1.00000 329	0.79653 <.0001 329	0.65868 <.0001 329	0.59809 <.0001 328
<b>P12O8</b> Do Close Friends Do Things You Disapprove of?-reversed	0.31434 <.0001 329	0.40298 <.0001 330	0.32613 <.0001 330	0.44269 <.0001 328	0.47699 <.0001 328	0.38689 <.0001 329	0.79653 <.0001 329	1.00000 330	0.72823 <.0001 330	0.57539 <.0001 329
<b>P12O9</b> Concerned about Negative Influence of Close Friends?-reversed	0.29239 <.0001 329	0.36128 <.0001 330	0.55616 <.0001 330	0.37703 <.0001 328	0.42411 <.0001 328	0.55940 <.0001 329	0.65868 <.0001 329	0.72823 <.0001 330	1.00000 330	0.49762 <.0001 329
<b>P12O10x</b> Amount of Time TC Spends w/Friends in Trouble	0.50498 <.0001 330	0.44246 <.0001 332	0.42629 <.0001 332	0.47806 <.0001 329	0.46704 <.0001 329	0.38893 <.0001 330	0.59809 <.0001 328	0.57539 <.0001 329	0.49762 <.0001 329	1.00000 333

Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Subscales Report Sample Year 12

Pearson Correlation Coefficients Prob >  r  under H0: Rho=0 Number of Observations				
	PCF12TRO	PCF12PDA	PCF12NIN	PCF12TPC
<b>PCF12TRO</b> Trouble with Adults - Close Friends	1.00000  336	0.80210 <.0001 336	0.62837 <.0001 336	0.88951 <.0001 336
<b>PCF12PDA</b> Parental Disapproval of Friends	0.80210 <.0001 336	1.00000  337	0.69826 <.0001 337	0.92193 <.0001 337
<b>PCF12NIN</b> Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends	0.62837 <.0001 336	0.69826 <.0001 337	1.00000  337	0.88016 <.0001 337
<b>PCF12TPC</b> Total Parental Concern - Close Friends	0.88951 <.0001 336	0.92193 <.0001 337	0.88016 <.0001 337	1.00000  337