Parent Report on Child's Close Friends
Grade 10/Year 11
Fast Track Project Technical Report
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May 20, 2003

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Appendix
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: P11O

Scored: PCF11

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 eleventh year of the study. 113 records were missing the complete measure. 41 records were missing from the control sample (6 from Durham, 12 from Nashville, 14 from Pennsylvania, and 9 from Washington) and 97 records were missing from the normative sample (14 from Durham, 27 from Nashville, 32 from Pennsylvania, and 24 from Washington). These numbers may reflect some overlap between the two samples.

The first nine items showed a high number of missing responses: 1-does best friend get into trouble with the police, etc. (126 missing), 2-does best friend do things you disapprove of (123 missing), 3-are you

concerned about the negative influence of the best friend (121 missing), 4-does 2nd best friend get into trouble with the police, etc. (140 missing), 5-does 2nd best friend do things you disapprove of (138 missing), 6-are you concerned about the negative influence of the 2nd best friend (136 missing), 7-do your child's close friends get into trouble with the police, etc. (138 missing), 8-do your child's close friends do things you disapprove of (137 missing), and 9-are you concerned about the negative influence of your child's close friends (134 missing).

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 (PCF11TRO)	.73	.67
Parental Disapproval of Friends (PCF11PDA)	.72	.69
Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends (PCF11NIN)	.80	.73
Total Parental Concern (PCF11TPC)	.90	.88

All of the subscales showed an adequate level of internal reliability for both the control and the normative samples. Analysts should note, however, that the reliabilities for the control sample are greater than the reliabilities for the normative sample.

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 all of the subscales.

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 (PCF11TRO)	4.14	1.78	4.81	2.28	339	2.99	0.0030
Parental Disapproval of Friends (PCF11PDA)	4.87	2.05	5.66	2.44	340	3.13	0.0019
Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends (PCF11NIN)	4.56	2.14	5.40	2.72	342	3.13	0.0019
Total Parental Concern (PCF11TPC)	15.03	5.91	17.60	7.51	343	3.47	0.0006

V. Recommendations for Use

Analysts should note that two subscales, *Parental Disapproval of Friends* and *Total Parental Concern*, were normally distributed for both the control and normative samples. The other two subscales, *Trouble with Adults* and *Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends*, were positively skewed for the normative sample and 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. Researchers and analysts should note that a number of responses were missing, seeming to indicate that parents are less likely to know which children their child is friends with as their children get older. 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 11

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
P11O1	Does Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	279	1.423	0.840	1.000	4.000
P11O2	Does Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	282	1.631	0.908	1.000	4.000
P11O3	Concerned about Negative Influence of Best Friend?-reversed	284	1.567	0.951	1.000	4.000
P11O4	Does 2nd Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	266	1.383	0.724	1.000	4.000
P11O5	Does 2nd Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	268	1.675	0.863	1.000	4.000
P11O6	Concerned about Negative Influence of 2nd Best Friend?-reversed	270	1.548	0.877	1.000	4.000
P11O7	Do Close Friends Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	268	1.604	0.844	1.000	4.000
P11O8	Do Close Friends Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	270	1.889	0.881	1.000	4.000
P11O9	Concerned about Negative Influence of Close Friends?-reversed	272	1.787	0.997	1.000	4.000
P11O10x	Amount of Time TC Spends w/Friends in Trouble	288	1.813	0.819	1.000	4.000

Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Items Control Sample Year 11

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
P11O1	Does Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	110	1.682	1.004	1.000	4.000
P11O2	Does Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	111	2.018	1.053	1.000	4.000
P11O3	Concerned about Negative Influence of Best Friend?-reversed	111	1.811	1.108	1.000	4.000
P11O4	Does 2nd Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	104	1.567	0.890	1.000	4.000
P11O5	Does 2nd Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	105	1.838	1.020	1.000	4.000
P11O6	Concerned about Negative Influence of 2nd Best Friend?-reversed	105	1.771	1.031	1.000	4.000
P11O7	Do Close Friends Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	105	1.819	0.928	1.000	4.000
P11O8	Do Close Friends Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	105	2.067	0.963	1.000	4.000
P11O9	Concerned about Negative Influence of Close Friends?-reversed	106	2.057	1.128	1.000	4.000
P11O10x	Amount of Time TC Spends w/Friends in Trouble	114	2.007	0.822	1.000	4.000

Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Subscales Normative Sample Year 11

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
PCF11TRO	Trouble with Adults - Close Friends	282	4.238	1.884	1.000	12.000
PCF11PDA	Parental Disapproval of Friends	283	5.014	2.105	1.000	12.000
PCF11NIN	Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends	285	4.733	2.292	1.000	12.000
PCF11TPC	Total Parental Concern - Close Friends	286	15.480	6.265	2.000	38.889

Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Subscales Control Sample Year 11

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
PCF11TRO	Trouble with Adults - Close Friends	112	4.813	2.276	1.000	12.000
PCF11PDA	Parental Disapproval of Friends	112	5.661	2.437	2.000	12.000
PCF11NIN	Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends	112	5.402	2.723	1.000	12.000
PCF11TPC	Total Parental Concern - Close Friends	113	17.604	7.510	2.000	40.000

VII. Item and Scale Correlations

Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Items Report Sample Year 11

	P11O1	P11O2	P11O3	P11O4	P11O5	P11O6	P11O7	P11O8	P11O9	P11O10x
Pearson Correlation Coefficients Prob > |r| under H0: Rho=0 Number of Observations										
P11O1 **Does Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed**	1.00000 337	0.74929 <.0001 336	0.62938 <.0001 336	0.41930 <.0001 321	0.32527 <.0001 321	0.31769 <.0001 322	0.41408 <.0001 321	0.38304 <.0001 321	0.35118 <.0001 322	0.50474 <.0001 335
P11O2 **Does Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed**	0.74929 <.0001 336	1.00000 340	0.68068 <.0001 340	0.39479 <.0001 323	0.44052 <.0001 325	0.32921 <.0001 326	0.39649 <.0001 323	0.50174 <.0001 324	0.38788 <.0001 326	0.49584 <.0001 338
P11O3 **Concerned about Negative Influence of Best Friend?-reversed**	0.62938 <.0001 336	0.68068 <.0001 340	1.00000 342	0.32877 <.0001 323	0.38786 <.0001 325	0.49242 <.0001 327	0.29367 <.0001 323	0.38459 <.0001 324	0.51495 <.0001 327	0.40495 <.0001 340
P11O4 **Does 2nd Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed**	0.41930 <.0001 321	0.39479 <.0001 323	0.32877 <.0001 323	1.00000 323	0.71064 <.0001 323	0.53133 <.0001 323	0.47428 <.0001 315	0.42610 <.0001 315	0.38032 <.0001 316	0.44042 <.0001 323
P11O5 **Does 2nd Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed**	0.32527 <.0001 321	0.44052 <.0001 325	0.38786 <.0001 325	0.71064 <.0001 323	1.00000 325	0.68829 <.0001 325	0.28890 <.0001 315	0.45290 <.0001 316	0.34931 <.0001 318	0.36816 <.0001 325
P11O6 **Concerned about Negative Influence of 2nd Best Friend?-reversed**	0.31769 <.0001 322	0.32921 <.0001 326	0.49242 <.0001 327	0.53133 <.0001 323	0.68829 <.0001 325	1.00000 327	0.29155 <.0001 315	0.42215 <.0001 317	0.56655 <.0001 320	0.31378 <.0001 326
P11O7 **Do Close Friends Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed**	0.41408 <.0001 321	0.39649 <.0001 323	0.29367 <.0001 323	0.47428 <.0001 315	0.28890 <.0001 315	0.29155 <.0001 315	1.00000 325	0.77665 <.0001 323	0.61724 <.0001 324	0.49015 <.0001 324
P11O8 **Do Close Friends Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed**	0.38304 <.0001 321	0.50174 <.0001 324	0.38459 <.0001 324	0.42610 <.0001 315	0.45290 <.0001 316	0.42215 <.0001 317	0.77665 <.0001 323	1.00000 326	0.68959 <.0001 326	0.49957 <.0001 325
P11O9 **Concerned about Negative Influence of Close Friends?-reversed**	0.35118 <.0001 322	0.38788 <.0001 326	0.51495 <.0001 327	0.38032 <.0001 316	0.34931 <.0001 318	0.56655 <.0001 320	0.61724 <.0001 324	0.68959 <.0001 326	1.00000 329	0.41448 <.0001 328
P11O10x **Amount of Time TC Spends w/Friends in Trouble**	0.50474 <.0001 335	0.49584 <.0001 338	0.40495 <.0001 340	0.44042 <.0001 323	0.36816 <.0001 325	0.31378 <.0001 326	0.49015 <.0001 324	0.49957 <.0001 325	0.41448 <.0001 328	1.00000 348

Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Subscales Report Sample Year 11

Pearson Correlation Coefficients Prob > |r| under H0: Rho=0 Number of Observations				
	PCF11TRO	**PCF11PDA**	**PCF11NIN**	**PCF11TPC**
PCF11TRO **Trouble with Adults - Close Friends**	1.00000 341	0.78146 <.0001 340	0.63510 <.0001 340	0.88179 <.0001 341
PCF11PDA **Parental Disapproval of Friends**	0.78146 <.0001 340	1.00000 342	0.72912 <.0001 342	0.92935 <.0001 342
PCF11NIN **Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends**	0.63510 <.0001 340	0.72912 <.0001 342	1.00000 344	0.88110 <.0001 344
PCF11TPC **Total Parental Concern - Close Friends**	0.88179 <.0001 341	0.92935 <.0001 342	0.88110 <.0001 344	1.00000 345