

Parent Report on Child's Close Friends

Grade 8/Year 9

Fast Track Project Technical Report

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Table of Contents

- I. Scale Description
- II. Report Sample
- III. Scaling
- IV. Differences between Groups
- V. Recommendations for Use
- VI. Item and Scale Means and SDs
- VII. Item and Scale Correlations

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: P90

Scored: PCF9

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 ninth year of the study. 97 records were missing the complete measure. 31 records were missing from the control sample (6 from Durham, 9 from Nashville, 8 from Pennsylvania, and 8 from Washington) and 83 records were missing from the normative sample (16 from Durham, 30 from Nashville, 17 from Pennsylvania, and 20 from Washington). These numbers may reflect some overlap between the two samples.

Six items showed a high number of missing responses: 4-does 2nd best friend get into trouble with the police, etc. (113 missing), 5-does 2nd best friend do things you disapprove of (113 missing), 6-are you

concerned about the negative influence of the 2nd best friend (110 missing), 7-do your child's close friends get into trouble with the police, etc. (117 missing), 8-do your child's close friends do things you disapprove of (115 missing), and 9-are you concerned about the negative influence of your child's close friends (113 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 (PCF9TRO)	.57	.67
Parental Disapproval of Friends (PCF9PDA)	.53	.64
Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends (PCF9NIN)	.68	.76
Total Parental Concern (PCF9TPC)	.86	.88

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 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 (PCF9TRO)	4.06	1.65	5.06	2.01	361	5.11	<.0001
Parental Disapproval of Friends (PCF9PDA)	4.65	1.84	5.87	2.15	361	5.65	<.0001
Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends (PCF9NIN)	4.80	2.35	5.94	2.69	362	4.17	<.0001
Total Parental Concern (PCF9TPC)	15.01	5.75	18.81	6.92	362	5.58	<.0001

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 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. Researchers and analysts should note that a number of responses about the second best friend and the child's close friends were missing, seeming to indicate that parents are less likely to know who is their child's second best friend and/or are less likely to know much about their child's close friends. 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 9

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
P901	Does Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	300	1.417	0.752	1.000	4.000
P902	Does Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	299	1.579	0.821	1.000	4.000
P903	Concerned about Negative Influence of Best Friend?-reversed	302	1.649	0.996	1.000	4.000
P904	Does 2nd Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	293	1.403	0.737	1.000	4.000
P905	Does 2nd Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	292	1.651	0.866	1.000	4.000
P906	Concerned about Negative Influence of 2nd Best Friend?-reversed	295	1.658	0.963	1.000	4.000
P907	Do Close Friends Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	287	1.564	0.768	1.000	4.000
P908	Do Close Friends Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	289	1.785	0.822	1.000	4.000
P909	Concerned about Negative Influence of Close Friends?-reversed	291	1.873	1.021	1.000	4.000
P9010x	Amount of Time TC Spends w/Friends in Trouble	302	1.698	0.702	1.000	4.000

Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Items Control Sample Year 9

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
P901	Does Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	123	1.642	0.821	1.000	4.000
P902	Does Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	122	1.893	0.925	1.000	4.000
P903	Concerned about Negative Influence of Best Friend?-reversed	123	1.894	1.100	1.000	4.000
P904	Does 2nd Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	117	1.726	0.916	1.000	4.000
P905	Does 2nd Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	118	2.000	1.004	1.000	4.000
P906	Concerned about Negative Influence of 2nd Best Friend?-reversed	118	2.000	1.140	1.000	4.000
P907	Do Close Friends Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	119	1.882	0.940	1.000	4.000
P908	Do Close Friends Do Things You Disapprove of? -reversed	120	2.175	1.001	1.000	4.000
P909	Concerned about Negative Influence of Close Friends?-reversed	120	2.225	1.126	1.000	4.000
P9010x	Amount of Time TC Spends w/Friends in Trouble	124	2.034	0.738	1.000	4.000

Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Subscales Normative Sample Year 9

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
PCF9TRO	Trouble with Adults - Close Friends	301	4.269	1.771	1.000	10.000
PCF9PDA	Parental Disapproval of Friends	301	4.884	1.942	1.000	11.000
PCF9NIN	Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends	302	5.073	2.459	1.000	12.000
PCF9TPC	Total Parental Concern - Close Friends	302	15.813	6.155	4.000	35.556

Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Subscales Control Sample Year 9

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
PCF9TRO	Trouble with Adults - Close Friends	124	5.065	2.011	1.000	10.000
PCF9PDA	Parental Disapproval of Friends	124	5.871	2.145	1.000	11.000
PCF9NIN	Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends	124	5.935	2.689	1.000	12.000
PCF9TPC	Total Parental Concern - Close Friends	124	18.814	6.920	5.333	35.556

VII. Item and Scale Correlations

Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Items Report Sample Year 9

	Pearson Correlation Coefficients Prob > r under H0: Rho=0 Number of Observations									
	P9O1	P9O2	P9O3	P9O4	P9O5	P9O6	P9O7	P9O8	P9O9	P9O10x
P9O1 Does Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	1.00000 361	0.72285 <.0001 358	0.61740 <.0001 361	0.38566 <.0001 349	0.27726 <.0001 349	0.26860 <.0001 351	0.36734 <.0001 344	0.29444 <.0001 346	0.28581 <.0001 347	0.44238 <.0001 359
P9O2 Does Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of?-reversed	0.72285 <.0001 358	1.00000 360	0.70246 <.0001 360	0.27535 <.0001 348	0.32511 <.0001 349	0.27711 <.0001 350	0.31357 <.0001 343	0.35282 <.0001 345	0.31549 <.0001 346	0.38292 <.0001 359
P9O3 Concerned about Negative Influence of Best Friend?-reversed	0.61740 <.0001 361	0.70246 <.0001 360	1.00000 363	0.27867 <.0001 350	0.29662 <.0001 350	0.50088 <.0001 353	0.25956 <.0001 345	0.29886 <.0001 347	0.45014 <.0001 349	0.36898 <.0001 361
P9O4 Does 2nd Best Friend Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	0.38566 <.0001 349	0.27535 <.0001 348	0.27867 <.0001 350	1.00000 350	0.70945 <.0001 349	0.63812 <.0001 350	0.45734 <.0001 339	0.36515 <.0001 340	0.35718 <.0001 340	0.43212 <.0001 348
P9O5 Does 2nd Best Friend Do Things You Disapprove of?-reversed	0.27726 <.0001 349	0.32511 <.0001 349	0.29662 <.0001 350	0.70945 <.0001 349	1.00000 350	0.73116 <.0001 350	0.38955 <.0001 339	0.41436 <.0001 340	0.43050 <.0001 340	0.38649 <.0001 349
P9O6 Concerned about Negative Influence of 2nd Best Friend?-reversed	0.26860 <.0001 351	0.27711 <.0001 350	0.50088 <.0001 353	0.63812 <.0001 350	0.73116 <.0001 350	1.00000 353	0.34195 <.0001 340	0.39567 <.0001 341	0.57748 <.0001 343	0.39338 <.0001 351
P9O7 Do Close Friends Get into Trouble w/Police, etc?-reversed	0.36734 <.0001 344	0.31357 <.0001 343	0.25956 <.0001 345	0.45734 <.0001 339	0.38955 <.0001 339	0.34195 <.0001 340	1.00000 346	0.75344 <.0001 346	0.66172 <.0001 346	0.53493 <.0001 345
P9O8 Do Close Friends Do Things You Disapprove of?-reversed	0.29444 <.0001 346	0.35282 <.0001 345	0.29886 <.0001 347	0.36515 <.0001 340	0.41436 <.0001 340	0.39567 <.0001 341	0.75344 <.0001 346	1.00000 348	0.69150 <.0001 348	0.48399 <.0001 347
P9O9 Concerned about Negative Influence of Close Friends?-reversed	0.28581 <.0001 347	0.31549 <.0001 346	0.45014 <.0001 349	0.35718 <.0001 340	0.43050 <.0001 340	0.57748 <.0001 343	0.66172 <.0001 346	0.69150 <.0001 348	1.00000 350	0.45420 <.0001 349
P9O10x Amount of Time TC Spends w/Friends in Trouble	0.44238 <.0001 359	0.38292 <.0001 359	0.36898 <.0001 361	0.43212 <.0001 348	0.38649 <.0001 349	0.39338 <.0001 351	0.53493 <.0001 345	0.48399 <.0001 347	0.45420 <.0001 349	1.00000 364

Parent's Report on Child's Close Friends Subscales Report Sample Year 9

Pearson Correlation Coefficients Prob > r under H0: Rho=0 Number of Observations				
	PCF9TRO	PCF9PDA	PCF9NIN	PCF9TPC
PCF9TRO Trouble with Adults - Close Friends	1.00000 363	0.77098 <.0001 362	0.66591 <.0001 363	0.87669 <.0001 363
PCF9PDA Parental Disapproval of Friends	0.77098 <.0001 362	1.00000 363	0.75222 <.0001 363	0.92396 <.0001 363
PCF9NIN Parental Concern over Negative Influence of Friends	0.66591 <.0001 363	0.75222 <.0001 363	1.00000 364	0.91045 <.0001 364
PCF9TPC Total Parental Concern - Close Friends	0.87669 <.0001 363	0.92396 <.0001 363	0.91045 <.0001 364	1.00000 364