

Questions on Parental Health
Grade 11/Year 12
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 Means and SD's
- VII. Item Correlations

Appendix

SAS scoring program

Citation

Instrument

Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group. (2001). Questions on Parental Health. Available: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Report

Godwin, J. and J. Klaric. (2004). Questions on Parental Health (Fast Track Project Technical Report) [On-line]. Available: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Sources

Raw: *p12ae*

Scored: *qph12*

I. Scale Description

Questions on Parental Health is a 4-item questionnaire developed by the Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group (CPPRG) for Fast Track to assess general health, specific medical conditions, and common substance use (smoking and alcohol consumption) among parents/caretakers. Caretakers assess their general health on a 5-point scale (excellent=1, very good=2, good=3, fair=4, poor=5). Caretakers who rate their health as either fair or poor are asked to verbally describe their medical conditions. Caretakers are also asked about the frequency with which they consume alcohol (never=1, once/month=2, 2 or 3 times/month=3, once or twice/week=4, 3-5 times/week=5, and nearly every day=6). If a caregiver reports any alcohol use, the caretakers is asked about the frequency of binge drinking in the last month, defined as 5 or more drinks in one session (never=1, once=2, twice=3, three times=4; four times=5, five or more times=6). All caretakers are then asked about their current smoking habits (0=Does not smoke, 1=Smokes).

II. Report Sample

This report was conducted using the control (n=155) and normative (n=387, N=463 with overlap) samples from cohort 1 in the twelfth year of the study. Overall, 121 children were missing the whole measure. Forty-six respondents were missing from the control sample (4 from Durham, 16 from Nashville, 12 from Pennsylvania, and 14 from Washington) and 105 respondents were missing from the normative sample (14 from Durham, 40 from Nashville, 21 from Pennsylvania, and 30 from Washington).

III. Scaling

Four scales were created from the available items. Two scales are just renamed versions of existing items. *QPH12GEN* is the renamed version of item 6 capturing general health, while *QPH12SMK* is the renamed version of item 10 capturing whether the caregiver currently smokes. Two additional scales are created by collapsing responses to existing items into fewer categories. *QPH12AFQ*, based on item 8, creates 3 levels of alcohol use: Never (1), 1-3 times per month (2), and once per week or more (3). *QPH12FQB*, based on item 8 and 9, creates 3 levels of binge drinking: Never, if item 6 equals never or item 7 equals never (1), 1-3 times per month (2), and 4 or more times per month (3).

IV. Differences Between Groups

An independent *t*-test was conducted to determine whether caretakers in the normative sample ($n=233$) differed in general health from caretakers in the control sample ($n=109$). Results from a folded *F* test indicated that variances in the two samples were homogenous; during grade 11, normative and control samples did not significantly differ in self-reported general health.

Comparison of Means for Normative and Control for Continuous Scales and Items								
Variable	Label	Normative		Control		DF	t Value	Pr > t
		Mean	Std Dev	Mean	Std Dev			
QPH12GEN	General Health	2.53	0.96	2.72	0.89	340	1.77	0.0771

Differences in the frequency of alcohol use, binge drinking, smoking between the normative and control samples were assessed using Chi Square tests of independence.

No differences between non-overlapping normative and control samples were observed in frequency of drinking episodes ($\chi^2 (2, N=342) = 0.6790, p=0.7121$). In addition, the frequency of binge drinking did not differ between normative and control samples ($\chi^2 (2, N=342) = 0.1593, p=0.9234$).

QPH12AFQ: Frequency of Alcohol Consumption			
Frequency Col Pct	Control	Normative	Total
Never	48 44.04	92 39.48	140
1-3 Times per Month	45 41.28	102 43.78	147
Once per Week or More	16 14.68	39 16.74	55
Total	109	233	342

QPH12FQB: Frequency of Binge Drinking			
Frequency Col Pct	Control	Normative	Total
Never	87 79.82	182 78.11	269
1-3 Times per Month	20 18.35	47 20.17	67
4 or More Times per Month	2 1.83	4 1.72	6
Total	109	233	342

A significant difference in self-reported smoking patterns was observed; more caretakers in the control sample reported smoking than those in the normative sample ($\chi^2(1, N=342)= 8.5872, p=0.0034$).

QPH12SMK: Currently Smoke			
Frequency Col Pct	Control	Normative	Total
No	57 52.29	160 68.67	217
Yes	52 47.71	73 31.33	125
Total	109	233	342

V. Recommendations for Use

The general health of caretakers did not differ between control and normative samples. Moreover, the number of caretakers using alcoholic substances and the type of alcoholic consumption did not differ. The samples did differ in the frequency of reported smoking.

VI. Item Means

Descriptive Statistics - Normative Sample						
Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
P12AE6	How is your general physical health?	282	2.59	0.95	1.00	5.00
P12AE8	How often do you drink alcohol?	282	2.16	1.29	1.00	6.00
P12AE9	How often in the last month have you had five or more drinks?	169	1.72	1.15	1.00	6.00
P12AE10	Do you smoke?	282	0.35	0.48	0.00	1.00

Descriptive Statistics - High Risk Control Sample						
Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
P12AE6	How is your general physical health?	109	2.72	0.89	1.00	5.00
P12AE8	How often do you drink alcohol?	109	2.06	1.22	1.00	6.00
P12AE9	How often in the last month have you had five or more drinks?	61	1.74	1.24	1.00	6.00
P12AE10	Do you smoke?	109	0.48	0.50	0.00	1.00

VII. Item Correlations

Pearson Correlation Coefficients Prob > r under H0: $\rho=0$ Number of Observations				
	P12AE6	P12AE8	P12AE9	P12AE10
P12AE6 How is your general physical health?	1.000 342	-0.031 0.565 342	0.103 0.144 202	0.193 0.000 342
P12AE8 How often do you drink alcohol?	-0.031 0.565 342	1.000 342	0.524 0.000 202	0.141 0.009 342
P12AE9 How often in the last month have you had five or more drinks?	0.103 0.144 202	0.524 0.000 202	1.000 202	0.296 0.000 202
P12AE10 Do you smoke?	0.193 0.000 342	0.141 0.009 342	0.296 0.000 202	1.000 342

Appendix – SAS Scoring Program
(See Instrument Summary)