

Self-Report of Close Friends-Version III

Year 15

Fast Track Project Technical Report

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Citation

Instrument

O'Donnell, J., Hawkins, J.D., & Abbott, R.D. (1995). Predicting serious delinquency and substance use among aggressive boys. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 63, 529-537.

Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group (CPPRG). (1998). *Self-Report of Close Friends*. Available from the Fast Track Project website, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group (CPPRG). (1999). *Self-Report of Close Friends-Revised*. Available from the Fast Track Project website, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Report

Sandoval, J.M. (2011). *Self-Report of Close Friends-Version III* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project website, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Rains, C. (2004). *Self-Report of Close Friends-Revised* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project website, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Schimmel, K. (2001). *Self-Report of Close Friends* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project website, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Data Sources

Unscored: C15BN

Scored: CCV15

I. Scale Description

The Self Report of Close Friends measure was adapted from an instrument developed for the Seattle Social Development Project (O'Donnell, Hawkins, & Abbott, 1995). The Fast Track Project original version of this measure was added to the child instrument battery in study year 8. The measure assesses characteristics of students' best friends' relationships. In year 8 of the Fast Track Project, students were asked to identify two best friends and answer questions regarding thoughts and feelings about the friend, commitment to the friend, and behaviors by the friend including delinquency, substance use, school motivation and parental attitudes toward the friend. Students were also asked to answer questions about these characteristics for their peer group in general.

In year 9 of the Fast Track Project, the measure was revised and used in all years thereafter. Instead of

asking about the characteristics for the child’s peer group, the child is now asked about his/her third best friend. The revised version contains a total of 84 questions. The child is asked to answer 28 questions about each best friend, such as “How do you know your best friend,” “Do you enjoy spending time with this person,” and “Have the two of you ever sold drugs.” The same questions are repeated for each friend.

In years 14 and 15, the questionnaire was modified in order to remove questions related to school and relations with Police. Also, questions regarding marijuana and drug use were split, resulting in individual items. Consequently, the scales created in year 15 are fundamentally different than those used in years 13 and before. Longitudinal analyses of these scales are not possible beyond year 13. Scales for years 13 and 14 remain comparable.

II. Report Sample

This report contains analyses on data collected on cohort one of the high-risk Control sample (n=155) and the Normative sample (n=387, N=463 with overlap) from the fifteenth year of the study.

Of these, 93 are missing all data, including 57 from the Normative group (13 from Durham, 17 from Nashville, 13 from Pennsylvania, and 14 from Washington), and 36 from the Control group (7 from Durham, 14 from Nashville, 3 from Pennsylvania, and 12 from Washington), with overlap between the Normative and Control groups. None of the missing data were used in the analyses.

III. Scaling

The items in this instrument can be grouped to assess four different constructs of children’s friendships for their first, second, and third best friends (Bonding, Deviance and Substance Abuse, Substance Abuse, and Deviant Activities). In addition, each of these constructs is also assessed across all three friendships for four total scores: Total Bonding, Total Deviance and Substance Abuse, Total Substance Abuse, and Total Deviant Activities.

The individual scales for the items vary; a number of questions use yes/no responses, while other questions use scales such as 1 (“Very Much”) to 4 (“Not at All”). Because of this variation in scaling, items used in the scales were standardized; these items have a “z” added to the item name to indicate that they were standardized. In addition, a number of items were reversed-scored in order to indicate high scores for the scales; these items have an “R” added to the item name to indicate that the item was reversed-scored.

Three new dichotomous variables (CCVxGN1, CCVxGN2, and CCVxGN3) were created to be able to examine whether the students’ best friends were of the same sex or of the opposite sex. These variables were not included in any of the scales. Additionally a final question in the instrument assesses whether the nominated best friend is also a romantic partner.

Scale Name	Items in Scale
Bonding-1st Best Friend (CCV15BONDING1)	C15BN2_1Rz C15BN3_1Rz C15BN4_1Rz C15BN5_1Rz C15BN6_1Rz
Bonding-2nd Best Friend (CCV15BONDING2)	C15BN2_2Rz C15BN3_2Rz C15BN4_2Rz C15BN5_2Rz C15BN6_2Rz
Bonding-3rd Best Friend (CCV15BONDING3)	C15BN2_3Rz C15BN3_3Rz C15BN4_3Rz C15BN5_3Rz C15BN6_3Rz
Deviance and Substance Abuse -1st Best Friend (CCV15DEV_SUB1)	C15BN7_1Rz C15BN8a_1Rz C15BN8b_1Rz C15BN8c_1Rz C15BN8d_1Rz C15BN8e_1Rz C15BN8f_1Rz C15BN8g_1Rz C15BN8h_1Rz C15BN8i_1Rz C15BN8j_1Rz C15BN8k_1Rz C15BN9a_1Rz C15BN9b_1Rz C15BN9c_1Rz C15BN9d_1Rz C15BN9e_1Rz C15BN9f_1Rz C15BN9g_1Rz C15BN9h_1Rz C15BN9i_1Rz

	C15BN9j_1Rz C15BN9k_1Rz
Deviance and Substance Abuse -2nd Best Friend (CCV15DEV_SUB2)	C15BN7_2Rz C15BN8a_2Rz C15BN8b_2Rz C15BN8c_2Rz C15BN8d_2Rz C15BN8e_2Rz C15BN8f_2Rz C15BN8g_2Rz C15BN8h_2Rz C15BN8i_2Rz C15BN8j_2Rz C15BN8k_2Rz C15BN9a_2Rz C15BN9b_2Rz C15BN9c_2Rz C15BN9d_2Rz C15BN9e_2Rz C15BN9f_2Rz C15BN9g_2Rz C15BN9h_2Rz C15BN9i_2Rz C15BN9j_2Rz C15BN9k_2Rz
Deviance and Substance Abuse -3rd Best Friend (CCV15DEV_SUB3)	C15BN7_3Rz C15BN8a_3Rz C15BN8b_3Rz C15BN8c_3Rz C15BN8d_3Rz C15BN8e_3Rz C15BN8f_3Rz C15BN8g_3Rz C15BN8h_3Rz C15BN8i_3Rz C15BN8j_3Rz C15BN8k_3Rz C15BN9a_3Rz C15BN9b_3Rz C15BN9c_3Rz C15BN9d_3Rz C15BN9e_3Rz C15BN9f_3Rz C15BN9g_3Rz C15BN9h_3Rz C15BN9i_3Rz C15BN9j_3Rz C15BN9k_3Rz
Substance Abuse-1st Best Friend (CCV15SUBSTANCE1)	C15BN8a_1Rz C15BN8b_1Rz C15BN8c_1Rz C15BN8d_1Rz C15BN9a_1Rz C15BN9b_1Rz C15BN9c_1Rz C15BN9d_1Rz
Substance Abuse-2nd Best Friend (CCV15SUBSTANCE2)	C15BN8a_2Rz C15BN8b_2Rz C15BN8c_2Rz C15BN8d_2Rz C15BN9a_2Rz C15BN9b_2Rz C15BN9c_2Rz C15BN9d_2Rz
Substance Abuse-3rd Best Friend (CCV15SUBSTANCE3)	C15BN8a_3Rz C15BN8b_3Rz C15BN8c_3Rz C15BN8d_3Rz C15BN9a_3Rz C15BN9b_3Rz C15BN9c_3Rz C15BN9d_3Rz
Deviant Activity-1st Best Friend (CCV15DEVIANCE1)	C15BN7_1Rz C15BN8e_1Rz C15BN8f_1Rz C15BN8g_1Rz C15BN8h_1Rz C15BN8i_1Rz C15BN8j_1Rz C15BN8k_1Rz C15BN9e_1Rz C15BN9f_1Rz C15BN9g_1Rz C15BN9h_1Rz C15BN9i_1Rz C15BN9j_1Rz C15BN9k_1Rz
Deviant Activity-2nd Best Friend (CCV15DEVIANCE2)	C15BN7_2Rz C15BN8e_2Rz C15BN8f_2Rz C15BN8g_2Rz C15BN8h_2Rz C15BN8i_2Rz C15BN8j_2Rz C15BN8k_2Rz C15BN9e_2Rz C15BN9f_2Rz C15BN9g_2Rz C15BN9h_2Rz C15BN9i_2Rz C15BN9j_2Rz C15BN9k_2Rz
Deviant Activity-3rd Best Friend (CCV15DEVIANCE3)	C15BN7_3Rz C15BN8e_3Rz C15BN8f_3Rz C15BN8g_3Rz C15BN8h_3Rz C15BN8i_3Rz C15BN8j_3Rz C15BN8k_3Rz C15BN9e_3Rz C15BN9f_3Rz C15BN9g_3Rz C15BN9h_3Rz C15BN9i_3Rz C15BN9j_3Rz C15BN9k_3Rz

The four other scales that measure the student's relationships across all of his/her friends are as follows:

Total Scale Name	Items in Scale
Total Bonding Across Friends (CCV15BONDING)	C15BN2_1Rz C15BN3_1Rz C15BN4_1Rz C15BN5_1Rz C15BN6_1Rz C15BN2_2Rz C15BN3_2Rz C15BN4_2Rz C15BN5_2Rz C15BN6_2Rz C15BN2_3Rz C15BN3_3Rz C15BN4_3Rz C15BN5_3Rz C15BN6_3Rz
Total Deviance and Substance Abuse Across Friends (CCV15DEV_SUB)	C15BN7_1Rz C15BN8a_1Rz C15BN8b_1Rz C15BN8c_1Rz C15BN8d_1Rz C15BN8e_1Rz C15BN8f_1Rz C15BN8g_1Rz C15BN8h_1Rz C15BN8i_1Rz C15BN8j_1Rz C15BN8k_1Rz C15BN9a_1Rz C15BN9b_1Rz C15BN9c_1Rz C15BN9d_1Rz C15BN9e_1Rz C15BN9f_1Rz C15BN9g_1Rz C15BN9h_1Rz C15BN9i_1Rz C15BN9j_1Rz C15BN9k_1Rz C15BN7_2Rz C15BN8a_2Rz C15BN8b_2Rz C15BN8c_2Rz C15BN8d_2Rz C15BN8e_2Rz C15BN8f_2Rz C15BN8g_2Rz C15BN8h_2Rz C15BN8i_2Rz C15BN8j_2Rz C15BN8k_2Rz C15BN9a_2Rz C15BN9b_2Rz C15BN9c_2Rz C15BN9d_2Rz C15BN9e_2Rz C15BN9f_2Rz C15BN9g_2Rz C15BN9h_2Rz C15BN9i_2Rz C15BN9j_2Rz C15BN9k_2Rz C15BN7_3Rz C15BN8a_3Rz C15BN8b_3Rz C15BN8c_3Rz C15BN8d_3Rz C15BN8e_3Rz C15BN8f_3Rz C15BN8g_3Rz C15BN8h_3Rz C15BN8i_3Rz C15BN8j_3Rz C15BN8k_3Rz C15BN9a_3Rz C15BN9b_3Rz C15BN9c_3Rz C15BN9d_3Rz C15BN9e_3Rz C15BN9f_3Rz C15BN9g_3Rz C15BN9h_3Rz C15BN9i_3Rz C15BN9j_3Rz C15BN9k_3Rz
Total Substance Abuse Across Friends (CCV15SUBSTANCE)	C15BN8a_1Rz C15BN8b_1Rz C15BN8c_1Rz C15BN8d_1Rz C15BN9a_1Rz C15BN9b_1Rz C15BN9c_1Rz C15BN9d_1Rz C15BN8a_2Rz C15BN8b_2Rz C15BN8c_2Rz C15BN8d_2Rz C15BN9a_2Rz C15BN9b_2Rz C15BN9c_2Rz C15BN9d_2Rz C15BN8a_3Rz C15BN8b_3Rz C15BN8c_3Rz C15BN8d_3Rz C15BN9a_3Rz C15BN9b_3Rz C15BN9c_3Rz C15BN9d_3Rz
Total Deviant Activity-Across Friends (CCV15DEVIANC3)	C15BN7_1Rz C15BN8e_1Rz C15BN8f_1Rz C15BN8g_1Rz C15BN8h_1Rz C15BN8i_1Rz C15BN8j_1Rz C15BN8k_1Rz C15BN9e_1Rz C15BN9f_1Rz C15BN9g_1Rz C15BN9h_1Rz C15BN9i_1Rz C15BN9j_1Rz C15BN9k_1Rz C15BN7_2Rz C15BN8e_2Rz C15BN8f_2Rz C15BN8g_2Rz C15BN8h_2Rz C15BN8i_2Rz C15BN8j_2Rz C15BN8k_2Rz C15BN9e_2Rz C15BN9f_2Rz C15BN9g_2Rz C15BN9h_2Rz C15BN9i_2Rz C15BN9j_2Rz C15BN9k_2Rz C15BN7_3Rz C15BN8e_3Rz C15BN8f_3Rz C15BN8g_3Rz C15BN8h_3Rz C15BN8i_3Rz C15BN8j_3Rz C15BN8k_3Rz C15BN9e_3Rz C15BN9f_3Rz C15BN9g_3Rz C15BN9h_3Rz C15BN9i_3Rz C15BN9j_3Rz C15BN9k_3Rz

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

Scale Name	Cronbach's Alphas	
	Normative	Control
Bonding-1 st Best Friend (CCV15BONDING1)	.83	.80
Bonding-2 nd Best Friend (CCV15BONDING2)	.86	.85
Bonding-3 rd Best Friend (CCV15BONDING3)	.89	.83
Deviance and Substance Abuse -1 st Best Friend (CCV15DEV_SUB1)	.89	.88
Deviance and Substance Abuse -2 nd Best Friend (CCV15DEV_SUB2)	.92	.94
Deviance and Substance Abuse -3 rd Best Friend (CCV15DEV_SUB3)	.89	.91
Substance Abuse-1 st Best Friend (CCV15SUBSTANCE1)	.77	.86
Substance Abuse-2 nd Best Friend (CCV15SUBSTANCE2)	.84	.88
Substance Abuse-3 rd Best Friend (CCV15SUBSTANCE3)	.83	.85
Deviant Activity-1 st Best Friend (CCV15DEVIANCE1)	.85	.90
Deviant Activity-2 nd Best Friend (CCV15DEVIANCE2)	.93	.95
Deviant Activity-3 rd Best Friend (CCV15DEVIANCE3)	.91	.83
Total Bonding Across Friends (CCV15BONDING)	.91	.88
Total Deviance and Substance Abuse Across Friends (CCV15DEV_SUB)	.95	.95
Total Substance Abuse Across Friends (CCV15SUBSTANCE)	.90	.92
Total Deviant Activity-Across Friends (CCV15DEVIANCE3)	.95	.95

Most of the scales showed a level of internal reliability.

IV. Item and Scale Means and SD's

None of the items were tested to measure differences in means between the Normative and Control samples.

Self-Report of Close Friends—Normative vs. Control Scales

High or low risk sample	Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Min	Max
HI	CCV15BONDING1	Bonding - 1st BF	114	0.01	0.67	-2.62	0.68
	CCV15BONDING2	Bonding - 2nd BF	107	0.05	0.74	-2.66	0.85
	CCV15BONDING3	Bonding - 3rd BF	102	0.06	0.66	-1.93	0.97
	CCV15BONDING	Total Bonding Across Friends	107	0.05	0.54	-2.32	0.83
	CCV15DEV_SUB1	Deviant Activity plus Substance Abuse - 1st BF	114	0.08	0.58	-0.36	3.04
	CCV15DEV_SUB2	Deviant Activity plus Substance Abuse - 2nd BF	107	0.02	0.68	-0.34	5.87
	CCV15DEV_SUB3	Deviant Activity plus Substance Abuse - 3rd BF	102	0.06	0.62	-0.32	3.58
	CCV15DEV_SUB	Total Deviant Act plus Substance Abuse Across Frnds	107	0.05	0.50	-0.35	3.16
	CCV15SUBSTANCE1	Substance Abuse- 1st BF	114	0.13	0.79	-0.59	3.61
	CCV15SUBSTANCE2	Substance Abuse- 2nd BF	107	0.02	0.73	-0.56	3.48
	CCV15SUBSTANCE3	Substance Abuse- 3rd BF	102	0.04	0.68	-0.52	1.90
	CCV15SUBSTANCE	Total Substance Abuse Across Frnds	107	0.07	0.61	-0.58	2.99
	CCV15DEVIANCE1	Deviant Activity - 1st BF	114	0.05	0.60	-0.24	3.08
	CCV15DEVIANCE2	Deviant Activity - 2nd BF	107	0.01	0.79	-0.23	7.15
	CCV15DEVIANCE3	Deviant Activity - 3rd BF	102	0.07	0.74	-0.22	4.55
	CCV15DEVIANCE	Total Deviant Activity Across Frnds	107	0.05	0.59	-0.23	4.02
LO	CCV15BONDING1	Bonding - 1st BF	246	0.05	0.74	-3.60	0.68
	CCV15BONDING2	Bonding - 2nd BF	243	0.02	0.77	-2.66	0.85
	CCV15BONDING3	Bonding - 3rd BF	236	0.03	0.81	-2.14	0.97
	CCV15BONDING	Total Bonding Across Friends	242	0.03	0.65	-2.80	0.83
	CCV15DEV_SUB1	Deviant Activity plus Substance Abuse - 1st BF	246	-0.08	0.46	-0.36	3.60
	CCV15DEV_SUB2	Deviant Activity plus Substance Abuse - 2nd BF	243	-0.05	0.53	-0.34	4.23
	CCV15DEV_SUB3	Deviant Activity plus Substance Abuse - 3rd BF	236	-0.03	0.50	-0.32	4.81
	CCV15DEV_SUB	Total Deviant Act plus Substance Abuse Across Frnds	242	-0.05	0.43	-0.35	3.75
	CCV15SUBSTANCE1	Substance Abuse- 1st BF	246	-0.09	0.53	-0.59	1.92
	CCV15SUBSTANCE2	Substance Abuse- 2nd BF	243	-0.04	0.65	-0.56	3.36
	CCV15SUBSTANCE3	Substance Abuse- 3rd BF	236	0.00	0.66	-0.52	3.51
	CCV15SUBSTANCE	Total Substance Abuse Across Frnds	242	-0.04	0.52	-0.58	2.30
	CCV15DEVIANCE1	Deviant Activity - 1st BF	246	-0.08	0.56	-0.24	4.78
	CCV15DEVIANCE2	Deviant Activity - 2nd BF	243	-0.06	0.61	-0.23	5.42
	CCV15DEVIANCE3	Deviant Activity - 3rd BF	236	-0.05	0.55	-0.22	5.86
	CCV15DEVIANCE	Total Deviant Activity Across Frnds	242	-0.06	0.50	-0.23	4.74

Note: Values No Answer is coded "N" and Skipped is coded as "S".

	High or low risk sample	
	HI	LO
First Best Friend. Is this friend a boy or a girl?		
.	36	57
N	4	3
S	1	1
Boy	67	120
Girl	47	127
Second Best Friend . Is this friend a boy or a girl?		
.	36	57
N	7	4
S	5	4
Boy	51	116
Girl	56	127
Third Best Friend. Is this friend a boy or a girl?		
.	36	57
N	5	7
S	12	8
Boy	53	110
Girl	49	126
Are any of these three close friends that you described your current romantic partner (boyfriend/girlfriend, husband, or wife)?		
.	36	57
N	5	4
S	1	1
No	63	134
Yes	50	112

V. Recommendations for Use

Bonding scales as well as Total Bonding Across Friends are skewed to high values. The rest of the scales Deviance and Substance Abuse, Deviant Activities and Substance Abuse and their respective Totals Across Friends were negatively skewed.

A number of scales showed floor effects. The user is encouraged to examine all scales with care. In general, the scales collapsed across friends have higher internal consistency estimates, at least in part as a result of the greater number of items. Most items are straightforward in use and interpretation. The scale can be used in two ways. The first is to use the factors identified in this report. The second is to use individual items or create other scales.

Association between gender of best friend and sample type has not been tested.