The Protective Factors Survey

The Protective Factors Survey is a product of the FRIENDS National Resource Center and was developed in partnership with the University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research.

FRIENDS is a Service of the Children’s Bureau, a member of the T/TA Network
Developed to address the shifting focus of prevention work and federal requests for evidence of effectiveness.

Developed through a partnership with FRIENDS and The University of Kansas.

Involved multiple experts in the field, parent leaders, prevention workers, and hundreds of families.
Phase 1: Defining constructs, developing item pool, review by field of experts, pilot testing resulting in removal of items.

Phase 2: Testing of additional items, factor analyses, reliability and validity.

Phase 3: Examine stability over time (repeated administration), expand on validity testing.

Phase 4: Examine ability to measure change over time, examine use as retrospective pre-test.
PFS Phases of Testing

Administered to over 1500 consumers

Administered by approximately 35 agencies.

Administered in approximately 15 states.

Validation using 8 potentially-related measures.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protective Factor Operational Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family Functioning and Resiliency</strong> (5 items)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Social Emotional Support</strong> (3 items)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Concrete Support</strong> (3 items)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Child Development and Knowledge of Parenting</strong> (5 items)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nurturing and Attachment</strong> (4 items)</td>
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PFS Reliability

Family Functioning/Resiliency: A=.89
Social Support: A=.89
Concrete Support: A=.76
Nurturing and Attachment: A=.81
The PFS was positively related to:

- **Effective coping skills**
  - Brief COPE

- **Physical and emotional health and functioning**
  - RAND 36-Item Health Survey (Adapted)

- **Positive emotions**
  - Positive and Negative Affectivity Scale – Short Form

- **Optimism**
  - Life Orientation Test-Revised
When PFS scores were high

- Effective coping was high
- Physical and emotional health was good
- Positive emotions were high
- Optimism was high

In other words . . .
The PFS was negatively related to:

| Detection of physical child abuse and neglect | • Brief Child Abuse Potential Inventory |
| Experience level of stress                   | • Perceived Stress Scale               |
| Symptoms of depression                       | • PRIME-MD Patient Health Questionnaire |
| Negative emotions                            | • Positive & Negative Affectivity Scale – Short Form |
| Pessimism                                    | • Life Orientation Test-Revised        |
In other words . . .

When PFS scores were high . . .

- Child abuse & neglect potential was low
- Stress was low
- Depression was low
- Negative emotions were low
- Pessimism was low
PFS Pros and Cons

Pros

• Free and easy access.
• Established reliability and validity.
• Manual and technical assistance available.
• Can be broken into subscales based on needs.
• A reliable Spanish version is being validated

Cons

• No norms established.
• Brief (not detailed for any individual factor).
• Not designed for individual assessment.
• Not designed to measure small changes resulting from brief interventions.
Current Utilization Known
(not necessarily CBCAP)
http://friendsnrc.org/protective-factors-survey

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