



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



PFS Background

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.



PFS Phases of Testing

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.

Protective Factor Operational Definition

Family Functioning and Resiliency
(5 items)

- Having adaptive skills and strategies to persevere in times of crisis. Family's ability to openly share positive and negative experiences and mobilize to accept, solve, and manage problems.

Social Emotional Support (3 items)

- Perceived informal support (from family, friends, and neighbors) that helps provide for emotional needs.

Concrete Support
(3 items)

- Perceived access to tangible goods and services to help families cope with stress, particularly in times of crisis or intensified need.

Child Development and Knowledge of Parenting
(5 items)

- Understanding and utilizing effective child management techniques and having age-appropriate expectations for children's abilities.

Nurturing and Attachment (4 items)

- The emotional tie along with a pattern of positive interaction between the parent and child that develops over time.

PFS Reliability



Family
Functioning/Resiliency

A=.89

Social Support

A=.89

Concrete Support

A=.76

Nurturing and Attachment

A=.81

PFS Validity



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



In other words . . .

When PFS scores were high

Effective coping was high

Physical and emotional health was good

Positive emotions were high

Optimism was high



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.

For More Information



<http://friendsnrc.org/protective-factors-survey>

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