



THE
FOSTER CARE
ALUMNI STUDIES
STORIES FROM THE PAST TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

Foster Care Alumni Studies Final Production Copy Interview¹

Introduction

In order to build on and compare to previous work, the Alumni Studies interview was largely composed of measures and items from earlier projects in child welfare, psychology, and epidemiology. For specific sources, please see the variables list available at www.casey.org/research/alumni_studies/methods.htm

The interview was developed by the project team to assess current psychological, health, financial, and social functioning, education and employment, birth and foster family history, services received, recent stressors, and perceptions of the foster care agency staff and foster parents. Average administration time was two to two and a half hours. Interviewing was conducted by trained interviewers from the Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan. A respondent booklet, containing response scales and options, was used with many questions to provide visual reference for participants.

¹ Revised: March 17, 2003. Compiled by Peter J. Pecora, A. Chris Downs, Ronald Kessler, Nathaniel Ehrlich, Steven Heeringa, Diana English, James White, Jason Williams, Carol Brandford, and Alisa McWilliams. For more information, please contact Peter J. Pecora, Research Services, Casey Family Programs, 1300 Dexter Avenue North, 3rd Floor, Seattle, WA 98109-3547 206/282-7300 www.casey.org/research.

Suggested citation: Pecora, P.J., Downs, A.C., Kessler, R.J., Ehrlich, N., Heeringa, S.G., English, D.J., White, J., Williams, J., Brandford, C., & McWilliams, A. (2002). *Interview Schedule for the Northwest Foster Care Alumni Study and the Casey National Foster Care Alumni Study*. Seattle, WA: Casey Family Programs. Retrieved from http://www.casey.org/research/alumni_studies/methods

The Alumni Studies Team and Advisors

Investigators

Peter J. Pecora, Ph.D., Principal Investigator, Casey Family Programs and the School of Social Work, University of Washington

A. Chris Downs, Ph.D., Co-Principal Investigator, Casey Family Programs

Diana J. English, Ph.D., Co-Principal Investigator, Washington Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration, Division of Children and Family Services.

Steven G. Heeringa, Ph.D., Co-Principal Investigator, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

Ronald J. Kessler, Ph.D., Co-Principal Investigator, Harvard University

James White, Ph.D., Co-Principal Investigator, Portland State University, (formerly with and representing the Oregon Department of Human Services; Children, Adults and Families)

Project Coordinator for Northwest and Casey National Alumni Studies

Jason Williams, M.S., Casey Alumni Studies Coordinator

Project Staff Members

Carol Brandford, M.S.W., Research Manager, Washington Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration, Division of Children and Family Services, Office of Children's Administration Research

Nathaniel Ehrlich, Ph.D., Study Director, Survey Research Center, University of Michigan

Kevin George, M.S.W., Transitional Resources Unit, Oregon Department of Human Services; Children, Adults and Families; Community Human Services

Eva Hiripi, M.A., Senior Research Associate, Department of Health Care Policy, Harvard University Medical School

Brian Judd, B.S., Research Assistant, Casey Family Programs

Alisa McWilliams, M.A., Survey Manager, Survey Research Center, University of Michigan

Sarah Morello, B.S., Research Assistant, Casey Family Programs

Mary Herrick, M.S.W., Research Assistant, Casey Family Programs

SECTION T

T1 In about how many different places, homes, or apartments did you live before you entered foster care for the first time?
 _____ NUMBER

T2 In about how many different places, homes, or apartments did you live between the first time you entered foster care and when you turned 18?
 _____ NUMBER

T3 When you were placed in foster care, were you placed in a different neighborhood than where you had been living?
 YES..... 1
 NO.....5

T4 (RB, P. 25) Of all the types of living situations in which you lived before you left foster care, in which place do you feel you did the best, or were most successful? Was it when you lived with your **birth family**, a **kinship foster family**, a **non-relative foster family**, in a **group home**, a **residential treatment center**, or some **other place**?

- BIRTH FAMILY..... 1
- KINSHIP FOSTER FAMILY..... 2
- NON-RELATIVE FOSTER FAMILY..... 3
- GROUP HOME..... 4
- RES TREATMENT CTR..... 5
- ON OWN..... 6
- OTHER (SPECIFY)..... 7

-
- T5 Now I would like to ask you about the types of living situations in which you have lived since you left foster care. "Lived" means the place you considered to be your home, even though it may have been shared with someone else.

(RB, P. 26) What types of living situations have you had since you left foster care? PROBE (Any others?) UNTIL R SAYS "NO" (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)

OWN ROOM IN MOTEL, HOTEL.....	A
HOME OF RELATIVE.....	B
HOME OF FRIEND	C
OWN APARTMENT, HOUSE OR ROOM IN PRIVATE DWELLING	D
DORM ROOM	E
HOSPITAL, TREATMENT PROGRAM, DETOX	F
MILITARY BARRACKS	G
JAIL, PRISON.....	H
HOMELESS	I
OTHER (SPECIFY)	J

- T6 (RB, P. 26) In what type of living situation have you spent the most time since you left foster care?

OWN ROOM IN MOTEL, HOTEL.....	A (01)
HOME OF RELATIVE.....	B (02)
HOME OF FRIEND	C (03)
OWN APARTMENT, HOUSE OR ROOM IN PRIVATE DWELLING	D (04)
DORM ROOM	E (05)
HOSPITAL, TREATMENT PROGRAM, DETOX	F (06)
MILITARY BARRACKS	G (07)
JAIL, PRISON.....	H (08)
HOMELESS	I (09)
OTHER (SPECIFY)	J (97)

T7 In how many different places, homes or apartments have you lived since you left foster care?

_____ NUMBER

T8 Now I'm going to ask some questions about your birth family. Did you know your birth mother or have a step mother or other mother figure living in your birth family when you were growing up?

YES.....1

NO.....5...(GO TO T14)

NEVER LIVED WITH BIRTH FAMILY [IF VOL.].....6...(GO TO T25)

T9 (RB, P. 27) I'm going to ask some questions about your birth mother or mother figure in your birth family. I'm going to read statements about strengths that some mothers have. For each, please let me know how much you felt it was present in your mother when you were a child.

[IWER: IF R VOLUNTEERS THAT HE/SHE HAD MORE THAN ONE MOTHER FIGURE IN HIS/HER BIRTH FAMILY, ASK ABOUT THE MOTHER FIGURE R KNEW BEST. IF R LIVED WITH THE MOTHER BEFORE AND AFTER BEING IN FOSTER CARE, ASK R TO FOCUS ON THE LONGEST TIME PERIOD WHEN (HE/SHE) LIVED WITH THE MOTHER IN BIRTH FAMILY.]

	A LOT	SOME	A LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
a How much did she have good mental health or emotional strength? Would you say a lot, some, a little, or not at all ?	1	2	3	4
b How much did she have good physical health? (Would you say a lot, some, a little, or not at all)?	1	2	3	4
c How much did she have a sense of humor?	1	2	3	4
d. How much was she tolerant of behaviors that were different from hers?	1	2	3	4
e How much could you confide in her about things that were bothering you?	1	2	3	4
f How overprotective was she?	1	2	3	4
g How much time and attention did she give you when you needed it?	1	2	3	4
h How much did she stop you from doing the things that other kids your age were allowed to do?	1	2	3	4
i How much did she expect you to do your best in everything you did?	1	2	3	4
j How consistent was she about the rules?	1	2	3	4

T10 Did your mother in your birth family work outside the home?

YES1

NO.....5...(GO TO T12)

T11 Did she mostly work **full time** or **part time**?

FULL TIME..... 1

PART TIME..... 2

T12 Has your mother in your birth family had problems with **alcohol, drugs**, or **mental health**?

YES 1

NO..... 5...(GO TO T13)

T12a. (Which ones – **alcohol, drugs**, and/or **mental health**?) [CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY]

ALCOHOL..... A

DRUGS..... B

MENTAL HEALTH..... C

T12b. Does she still experience any of these problems?

YES..... 1

NO..... 5

T13 Did your mother in your birth family ever face the criminal justice system, for example, was she **arrested, incarcerated, on probation** or **parole**?

YES 1

NO..... 5...(GO TO T14)

T13a. (Which ones – **arrested, incarcerated, probation**, or **on parole**?) [CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY]

ARRESTED..... A

INCARCERATED..... B

PROBATION..... C

PAROLE..... D

T13b. Does she still experience any of these problems?

YES..... 1

NO..... 5

T14 Did you know your birth father or have a step-father or other father figure living in your birth family when you were growing up?

YES.....1

NO..... 5...(GO TO T21)

T15 (RB, STILL ON P. 27) Next, I'm going to ask some questions about your birth father or father figure in your birth family. I'm going to read statements about strengths that some fathers have. For each, please let me know how much you felt it was present in your father when you were a child.

[IWER: IF R VOLUNTEERS THAT HE/SHE HAD MORE THAN ONE FATHER FIGURE IN HIS/HER BIRTH FAMILY, ASK ABOUT THE FATHER FIGURE R KNEW BEST. IF R LIVED WITH THE FATHER BEFORE AND AFTER BEING IN FOSTER CARE, ASK R TO FOCUS ON THE LONGEST TIME PERIOD WHEN (HE/SHE) LIVED WITH THE FATHER IN BIRTH FAMILY.]

	A LOT	SOME	A LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
a How much did he have good mental health or emotional strength? Would you say a lot, some, a little, or not at all?	1	2	3	4
b How much did he have good physical health? (Would you say a lot, some, a little, or not at all?)	1	2	3	4
c How much did he have a sense of humor?	1	2	3	4
d. How much was he tolerant of behaviors that were different from his?	1	2	3	4
e How much could you confide in him about things that were bothering you?	1	2	3	4
f How overprotective was he?	1	2	3	4
g How much time and attention did he give you when you needed it?	1	2	3	4
h How much did he stop you from doing the things that other kids your age were allowed to do?	1	2	3	4
i How much did he expect you to do your best in everything you did?	1	2	3	4
j How consistent was he about the rules?	1	2	3	4

T16 Did your father in your birth family work outside the home?

YES..... 1

NO..... 5...(GO TO T18)

T17 Did he mostly work **full time** or **part time**?

FULL TIME..... 1

PART TIME.....2

T18 Has your father in your birth family had problems with **alcohol, drugs, or mental health**?

YES..... 1

NO..... 5...(GO TO T19)

T18a. (Which ones – **alcohol, drugs, or mental health**?) [CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY]

ALCOHOL..... A

DRUGS..... B

MENTAL HEALTH..... C

T18b. Does he still experience any of these problems?

YES..... 1

NO..... 5

T19 Did your father in your birth family ever face the criminal justice system, for example, was he **arrested, incarcerated, on probation** or **parole**?

YES1

NO.....5...(GO TO T21)

T19a. (Which ones – **arrested, incarcerated, probation, or on parole**?)
[CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY]

ARRESTED.....A

INCARCERATED.....B

PROBATION.....C

PAROLE.....D

T19b. Does he still experience any of these problems?

YES.....1

NO.....5

T20 Has any other birth family member had problems with **alcohol, drugs, or mental health**?

YES1

NO.....5...(GO TO T21)

T20a. (Which ones – **alcohol, drugs, or mental health**?) [CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY.]

ALCOHOL.....A

DRUGS.....B

MENTAL HEALTH.....C

T21 INTERVIEWER CHECKPOINT: SEE T8, T14
DID R KNOW BIRTH MOTHER OR BIRTH FATHER?

YES..... 1...(GO TO T23)

NO.....5

T22 Did you live with any other adult members of your birth family when you were growing up?

YES1

NO.....5...(GO TO SECTION U)

T23 (RB, P. 28) I am going to read you a list and ask you how often each of the following resources were adequate in your birth family.

	ALWAYS	MOST TIME	SOME-TIMES	RARELY	NEVER
a How often was food adequate in your birth family - always, most of the time, sometimes, rarely, or never?	1	2	3	4	5
b How often was dental and medical care adequate in your birth family? (always, most of the time, sometimes, rarely, or never)	1	2	3	4	5
c (How often was) a place to live such as a house or apartment (adequate in your birth family)?	1	2	3	4	5
e Transportation?	1	2	3	4	5
g Clothing?	1	2	3	4	5
h Heat and other utilities for your house or apartment?	1	2	3	4	5
i Money or income to buy what was needed?	1	2	3	4	5
l A telephone or access to a phone?	1	2	3	4	5

T24 Did you ever do fun family activities such as family sports or outdoors or community activities with your birth family?

YES 1

NO.....5

T25 Did you have a close and confiding relationship with any other adult during most of your childhood?

YES 1

NO..... 5...(GO TO SECTION U)

T26 What was this person's relationship to you?

(RELATIONSHIP TO R)