



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

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SECTION W

W1 As you think about your foster care experience, what are some of the most important things, people, or experiences that led to your success in life?

W2 What could the agency who was working with you have done better?

W3 Do you **agree** or **disagree** with the following statement: "There was no way the foster parents could have done better because the agency should not have picked these people as foster parents in the first place."

AGREE 1

DISAGREE2

W4 The agency was correct in picking these people as foster parents, but should have given them better resources. (Do you **agree** or **disagree**?)

AGREE..... 1

DISAGREE..... 2

W5 What else could the foster parents who were working with you have done better?

W6 Could anything have been done to improve the move from foster care to living on your own?

W7 If you could tell children coming into the foster care agency anything right now, what would you tell them?

W8 INTERVIEWER CHECKPOINT: SEE COVERSHEET

R IS CASEY SAMPLE1...**HAND RESPONDENT THE AGENCY CONTACT CARD AND (GO TO W8a)**

ALL OTHERS2...(GO TO W9)

W8a Here is a card that we would like you to fill out if you would be willing to help meet the needs of children currently in foster care.

R FILLED OUT CARD AND GAVE IT IWER TO MAIL.....1

R TOOK THE CARD AND WILL MAIL IT LATER2

R DID NOT TAKE THE CARD3

W9 Would you like to establish a continuing relationship with the agency? What ways might be best?

W10 Those are all of my questions. We really appreciate the time you've given us. Is there anything else you would like to tell us at this time?

W11 EXACT TIME NOW: _____

INTERVIEWER: GO TO COVER SHEET TO VERIFY ADDRESS INFORMATION, AND OBTAIN CONTACT INFORMATION.

SECTION X

INTERVIEWER OBSERVATION: FILL THIS SECTION OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER LEAVING R'S HOME.

X1 Weather at time of interview:

RAINY, SNOWY..... 1

OVERCAST..... 2

HAZY; MOSTLY CLOUDY..... 3

PARTLY CLOUDY..... 4

CLEAR SKIES..... 5

X2 Was anyone else present during any portion of the interview?

YES..... 1

NO 5...**GO TO X6**

X3 Who else was present? (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)

SPOUSE/PARTNER..... A

CHILD(REN) UNDER AGE 6..... B

PERSON(S) AGE 6-17..... C

OTHER ADULT(S)..... D

X4 During how much of the interview was one of those persons present?

ALL..... 1

MOST..... 2

ABOUT HALF..... 3

ABOUT ¼..... 4

LESS THAN ¼..... 5

X5 How much was R distracted by (this person/these persons)?

A LOT..... 1

SOME..... 2

A LITTLE..... 3

NONE..... 4

X6 How was R's understanding of the questionnaire?

EXCELLENT..... 1

GOOD..... 2

FAIR..... 3

POOR..... 4

X7 How was R's cooperation during the interview?

EXCELLENT..... 1

GOOD..... 2

FAIR..... 3

POOR..... 4

X8 How much did R seem to enjoy the interview?

A LOT.....1

SOME.....2

A LITTLE.....3

NOT AT ALL.....4

X9 How much effort did R put into answering the questions?

A LOT..... 1

SOME..... 2

A LITTLE..... 3

NONE..... 4

X10 Did R use made up or meaningless words?

YES1

NO.....5

X11 Did R answer some questions in ways that made no sense or that seemed totally unrelated to the question asked?

YES1

NO.....5

X12 Did R have a total lack of emotional responsiveness or facial expression that persisted throughout the interview?

YES..... 1

NO 5

X13 Did R behave if (he/she) was hallucinating? (e.g., as if hearing voices or seeing vision, lips move soundlessly, giggles to self – not just from embarrassment or shyness- glances over shoulder, as if distracted by a voice.)

YES..... 1

NO 5

X14 How much difficulty did R have reading the Respondent Booklet?

NONE..... 1

MODERATE DIFFICULTY 2

COULD NOT READ AT ALL 3

X15 INDICATE WHICH QUESTIONS (IF ANY) THAT R HAD DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING.

X16 NOTE ANY ANSWERS THAT MAY BE CONFUSING TO EDITORS OR CODERS, AND PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION TO HELP CLARIFY THE SITUATION.
