



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 D

D1 INTERVIEWER CHECKPOINT: (SEE A4)

HAS R EVER BEEN MARRIED?

YES..... 1...(GO TO D6)

NO.....5

D2 INTERVIEWER CHECKPOINT: (SEE A2)

IS R CURRENTLY LIVING WITH A DOMESTIC PARTNER?

YES 1

NO.....5...(GO TO D31)

D3 Have you ever had a domestic partnership or marriage-like relationship with someone that lasted at least one year?

YES1

NO.....5

D4 You mentioned earlier that you are living with a domestic partner or in a marriage-like relationship. How long have you been living together?

_____ NUMBER

CIRCLE UNIT OF TIME

DAYS.....1 WEEKS.....2 MONTHS.....3 YEARS.....4

D5 All in all, how satisfied are you with this relationship? Are you **very satisfied**, **somewhat satisfied**, **not very satisfied**, or **not at all satisfied**?

VERY..... 1

SOMEWHAT..... 2

NOT VERY..... 3

NOT AT ALL..... 4

GO TO D25

D6 How many times have you been married in your lifetime?

_____ (NUMBER OF TIMES MARRIED)

D7 INTERVIEWER CHECKPOINT: (SEE D6)

HAS R BEEN MARRIED MORE THAN ONCE?

YES..... 1

NO..... 5...(GO TO D9)

D8 How many of these marriages ended in divorce or annulment?

_____ (NUMBER OF TIMES DIVORCED/ANNULLED)

D9 In what month and year were you married (the first time)?

(IF DON'T KNOW MONTH, PROBE FOR SEASON OR HALF OF YEAR)

_____/_____
(MONTH / YEAR)

D10 How long did you know your (first) (husband/wife) before you got married?

_____ NUMBER

CIRCLE UNIT OF TIME

DAYS.....1 WEEKS.....2 MONTHS.....3 YEARS.....4

D11 Before you began dating your (first) (husband/wife), did you ever have an exclusive relationship with someone else that lasted at least one year?

YES..... 1

NO..... 5

D12 INTERVIEWER CHECKPOINT: (SEE D6)

HAS R BEEN MARRIED MORE THAN ONCE?

YES 1...(GO TO D14)

NO..... 5

D13 INTERVIEWER CHECKPOINT: (SEE A4)

WHAT IS R'S CURRENT MARITAL STATUS?

IF R IS CURRENTLY MARRIED (GO TO D17)

IF R IS CURRENTLY SEPARATED..... (GO TO D18)

IF R IS CURRENTLY DIVORCED/ANNULED..... (GO TO D19)

IF R IS CURRENTLY WIDOWED..... (GO TO D20)

R MARRIED MORE THAN ONCE:

D14 In what year and month did your first marriage end?
(IF DON'T KNOW MONTH, PROBE FOR SEASON OR HALF OF YEAR)

_____/_____
(MONTH / YEAR)

D14a. How did the marriage end – were you **divorced**, or **widowed**?

DIVORCED..... 1

WIDOWED.....2

D14b. Since that time, have you ever had an exclusive relationship with someone that lasted at least one year?

YES..... 1

NO..... 5

D15 INTERVIEWER CHECKPOINT: (SEE P. 2—A4)

IS R CURRENTLY MARRIED, SEPARATED, DIVORCED/ANNULLED OR WIDOWED?

IF R IS CURRENTLY MARRIED (GO TO D16)

IF R IS CURRENTLY SEPARATED (GO TO D18)

IF R IS CURRENTLY DIVORCED/ANNULLED ... (GO TO D19)

IF R IS CURRENTLY WIDOWED (GO TO D20)

D16 You mentioned earlier that you are remarried. In what year and month did you marry your current (husband/wife)?
[IF DON'T KNOW MONTH, PROBE FOR SEASON OR HALF OF YEAR]

_____/_____
(MONTH / YEAR)

D17 (The next questions are about your marriage.) All in all, how satisfied are you with your marriage – **very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not very satisfied, or not at all satisfied?**

- VERY..... 1
- SOMEWHAT..... 2
- NOT VERY..... 3
- NOT AT ALL..... 4

GO TO D23

R CURRENTLY SEPARATED:

D18 You mentioned earlier in the interview that you are currently separated (from your most recent spouse). In what year and month did you separate for the most recent time?

(IF DON'T KNOW MONTH, PROBE FOR SEASON OR HALF OF YEAR.)

_____/_____
(MONTH / YEAR)

GO TO D21

R CURRENTLY DIVORCED, OR MARRIAGE ANNULLED:

D19 You mentioned earlier in the interview that you are currently divorced (from your most recent spouse). In what year and month did your divorce become official?

(IF DON'T KNOW MONTH, PROBE FOR SEASON OR HALF OF YEAR.)

_____/_____
(MONTH / YEAR)

GO TO D21

R CURRENTLY WIDOWED:

D20 You mentioned earlier in the interview that you are currently widowed. In what year and month were you widowed (most recently)?

(IF DON'T KNOW MONTH, PROBE FOR SEASON OR HALF OF YEAR.)

_____/_____
(MONTH / YEAR)

D21 INTERVIEWER CHECKPOINT: (SEE A2, A4)

IS R CURRENTLY LIVING WITH A DOMESTIC PARTNER?

YES..... 1

NO..... 5...(GO TO D31)

D22 You mentioned earlier that you are living with a domestic partner or in a marriage-like relationship. All in all, how satisfied are you with that relationship—**very satisfied, somewhat, not very** or **not at all satisfied**?

VERY..... 1

SOMEWHAT..... 2

NOT VERY..... 3

NOT AT ALL.. 4

D23 INTERVIEWER CHECKPOINT: (SEE A4)

IS R MARRIED?

YES..... 1

NO..... 5...(GO TO D25)

D24 Does your (husband/wife) currently live here with you or does (he/she) live someplace else?

HERE..... 1...(GO TO D25)
SOMEPLACE ELSE..... 2

D24a. Where does (he/she) live?

NURSING HOME OR HOSPITAL..... 1
ARMED FORCES..... 2
JAIL OR PRISON..... 3
BUSINESS ASSMT OUT OF TOWN... 4
OTHER (SPECIFY):
_____ 7

D24b. How long has (he/she) lived there?

_____ NUMBER (OR) SINCE _____ / _____
(MO / YR)

CIRCLE UNIT OF TIME

DAYS.....1 WEEKS.....2 MONTHS.....3 YEARS.....4

D24c. How often are the two of you in contact with each other—
almost **every day, a few times a week, a few times a month, once a month, or less than once a month?**

EVERY DAY..... 1
FEW TIMES/WK..... 2
FEW TIMES/MO..... 3
ONCE/MONTH..... 4
LESS..... 5
NEVER [IF VOL]..... 6

(RB, P. 5) LIST FOR D25-D26

- INSULT OR SWEAR
- SULK OR REFUSE TO TALK
- STOMP OUT OF THE ROOM
- DO OR SAY SOMETHING TO SPITE
- THREATEN TO HIT
- SMASH OR KICK SOMETHING IN ANGER

D25 (RB, P. 5) People handle disagreements in many different ways. When you have a disagreement with your (husband/wife/ partner), how often do you do **any** of the things on this list--**often, sometimes, rarely, or never?**

OFTEN..... 1

SOMETIMES..... 2

RARELY..... 3

NEVER..... 4

D26 (RB, P. 5) How often does (he/she) do **any** of these things to you--(**often, sometimes, rarely, or never**)?

OFTEN..... 1

SOMETIMES..... 2

RARELY..... 3

NEVER..... 4

- (RB, P. 6) LIST FOR D27-D28
- PUSH, GRAB OR SHOVE
 - THROW SOMETHING
 - SLAP OR SPANK

D27 (RB, P. 6) When you have a disagreement with your (husband/wife /partner) how often do you do **any** of these things to (him/her)? (**often, sometimes, rarely, or never?**)

- OFTEN..... 1
SOMETIMES..... 2
RARELY..... 3
NEVER..... 4
-

D28 (RB, P. 6) How often does (he/she) do **any** of these things to you? (**often, sometimes, rarely, or never?**)

- OFTEN..... 1
SOMETIMES..... 2
RARELY..... 3
NEVER..... 4
-

(RB P. 7) LIST FOR D29-D30

- KICK, BITE OR HIT WITH A FIST
- HIT OR TRY TO HIT WITH SOMETHING
- BEAT UP
- CHOKE
- BURN OR SCALD

D29 (RB, P. 7) When you have a disagreement with your (husband/wife/partner) how often do you do **any** of these things to (him/her)? (**often, sometimes, rarely, or never?**)

OFTEN..... 1
 SOMETIMES..... 2
 RARELY..... 3
 NEVER.....4

D30 (RB, P. 7) How often does (he/she) do **any** of these things to you? (**often, sometimes, rarely, or never?**)

OFTEN..... 1
 SOMETIMES..... 2
 RARELY..... 3
 NEVER..... 4

D31 Next, we are going to talk about relatives who do not live with you. How often do you talk on the phone or get together with relatives who do not live with you—**every day, a few times a week, a few times a month, about once a month, or less than once a month?**

- EVERY DAY 1
- FEW TIMES/WK 2
- FEW TIMES/MO 3
- ABOUT ONCE/MONTH 4
- LESS THAN ONCE/MONTH.... 5
- NEVER [IF VOL] 6...(GO TO D34)
- NO RELATIVE [IF VOL] 7...(GO TO D34)

D32		A LOT	SOME	A LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
a	[Not including your (husband/wife/partner)] how much do your relatives understand the way you feel about things - a lot, some, a little, or not at all?	1	2	3	4
b	How much can you rely on them for help if you have a serious problem?	1	2	3	4
c	How much can you open up to them if you need to talk about your worries?	1	2	3	4

D33		OFTEN	SOME-TIMES	RARELY	NEVER
a	[Not including your (husband/ wife/partner)], how often do your relatives make too many demands on you-- often, sometimes, rarely, or never?	1	2	3	4
b	How often do they argue with you?	1	2	3	4
c	How often do they let you down when you are counting on them?	1	2	3	4

D34 How often do you talk on the phone or get together with friends -- **every day, a few times a week, a few times a month, about once a month, or less than once a month?**

- EVERY DAY..... 1
- FEW TIMES/WK 2
- FEW TIMES/MO 3
- ABOUT ONCE/MONTH 4
- LESS THAN ONCE/MONTH ... 5
- NEVER [IF VOL] 6...(GO TO D37)

D35		A LOT	SOME	A LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
a	How much do your friends understand the way you feel about things - a lot, some, a little, or not at all?	1	2	3	4
b	How much can you rely on them for help if you have a serious problem?	1	2	3	4
c	How much can you open up to them if you need to talk about your worries?	1	2	3	4

D36		OFTEN	SOME-TIMES	RARELY	NEVER
a	How often do your friends make too many demands on you-- often, sometimes, rarely, or never?	1	2	3	4
b	How often do they argue with you?	1	2	3	4
c	How often do they let you down when you are counting on them?	1	2	3	4

D37 Are there any former foster parents that you lived with that you stay in contact with?

- YES..... 1
- NO..... 5...(GO TO D41)

D38 How often do you talk on the phone or get together with your former foster parents you feel closest to - **every day, a few times a week, a few times a month, about once a month, once a year, or less than once a year?**

- EVERY DAY..... 1
- FEW TIMES/WK..... 2
- FEW TIMES/MO..... 3
- ABOUT ONCE/MONTH..... 4
- ONCE A YEAR..... 5
- LESS THAN ONCE/YEAR..... 6
- NEVER [IF VOL]..... 7...(GO TO D41)

D39	A LOT	SOME	A LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
a How much do your former foster parents understand the way you feel about things - a lot, some, a little, or not at all?	1	2	3	4
b How much can you rely on them for help if you have a serious problem?	1	2	3	4
c How much can you open up to them if you need to talk about your worries?	1	2	3	4

D40	OFTEN	SOME-TIMES	RARELY	NEVER
a How often do your foster parents make too many demands on you-- often, sometimes, rarely, or never?	1	2	3	4
b How often do they argue with you?	1	2	3	4
c How often do they let you down when you are counting on them?	1	2	3	4

D41 About how many close friends do you have – people you feel at ease with and can talk with about what is on your mind? (You may include relatives.)

_____ (NUMBER OF PEOPLE)

D42 INTERVIEWER CHECKPOINT (SEE D41)

R ANSWERED ZERO AT D41.....1... **(GO TO D44)**

ALL OTHERS.....2

D43 You mention that you have [NUMBER FROM D41] close friends. Have any of them been in foster care also?

YES..... 1

NO..... 5... **(GO TO D44)**

D43A. How many (of these friends have been in foster care)?

_____ (NUMBER OF PEOPLE)

D44 INTERVIEWER CHECKPOINT: SEE A2, A4

IS R MARRIED OR LIVING WITH A PARTNER?

YES..... 1

NO..... 5... **(GO TO D46)**

D45 When you have a problem or worry, how often do you let your (husband/wife/partner) know about it -- **always, most of the time, sometimes, rarely, or never?**

ALWAYS..... 1

MOST OF THE TIME... .. 2

SOMETIMES..... 3

RARELY..... 4

NEVER..... 5

D46 When you have a problem or worry, how often do you let someone (else) in your personal life know about it? (**always, most of the time, sometimes, rarely, or never**)

- ALWAYS..... 1
- MOST OF THE TIME.. 2
- SOMETIMES..... 3
- RARELY..... 4
- NEVER..... 5

D47 People differ a lot in their feelings about professional help for emotional problems. If you had a serious emotional problem, would you **definitely go** for professional help, **probably go, probably not go**, or **definitely not go** for professional help?

- DEFINITELY GO..... 1
 - PROBABLY GO..... 2
 - PROBABLY NOT..... 3
 - DEFINITELY NOT..... 4
-