

Social Support – Friends and Adults
Adapted from Turner, Finkelhor, & Ormrod, 2010; from Zimet et al., 1988

Perceived social support is an important interpersonal resource derived from one’s immediate social network and may promote resilience and coping during times of stress. This scale focuses on support beyond the immediate family from friends and non-parent adults. The items were adapted for NatSCEV (Turner et al., 2010) from Zimet et al., (1988), with some further simplification of wording for the Life Paths project.

Development and validation of measure in pilot study and main sample: To establish reliability and validity for new and adapted items, we conducted a pilot study with 104 participants from the same community as the main sample, recruited through a local email classifieds list and word-of-mouth. In the main sample of over 2500 participants, we conducted domain-level factor analyses for all interpersonal strengths. Of the 11 items from the original Social Support scale used in the main study, six were maintained in this factor while four loaded onto Social Support – Immediate Family. Internal consistencies (coefficient alphas) for the pilot and main samples were both 0.90. Validity was established in the main sample with moderate correlations with other measures of interpersonal strengths, such as Compassion ($r = .44$) and Community Support ($r = .35$), in addition to Meaning Making–Other-oriented ($r = .54$) and Subjective Well-being ($r = .49$).

Scoring: Each answer category was assigned a value from 4 to 1. The total score can be a sum or mean of all the items. We used z-scores of the scale score in our analyses. Higher scores indicate higher levels of social support.

Adapted from: Turner, H. A., Finkelhor, D., & Ormrod, R. (2010). Poly-victimization in a national sample of children and youth. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 38(3), 323-330.

Zimet, G. D., Dahlem, N. W., Zimet, S. G., & Farley, G. K. (1988). The Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support. *Journal of Personality Assessment*, 52, 30-41.

Life Paths version: Hamby, S., Grych, J., & Banyard, V. L. (2015). *Life Paths measurement packet: Finalized scales*. Sewanee, TN: Life Paths Research Program. <http://www.lifepathsresearch.org/strengths-measures/>

1. My friends really try to help me.

Mostly true about me	4
Somewhat true about me	3
A little true about me	2
Not true about me	1
2. I can count on my friends when things go wrong.

Mostly true about me	4
Somewhat true about me	3
A little true about me	2
Not true about me	1
3. I can talk about my problems with my friends.

Mostly true about me	4
Somewhat true about me	3
A little true about me	2
Not true about me	1
4. In my life right now, there are adults other than my parents who care about my feelings and what happens to me.

Mostly true about me	4
Somewhat true about me	3
A little true about me	2
Not true about me	1
5. In my life right now, there are adults other than my parents who would give me good suggestions and advice.

Mostly true about me	4
Somewhat true about me	3
A little true about me	2
Not true about me	1
6. In my life right now, there are adults other than my parents who would help me with practical needs, like getting somewhere or help with a project.

Mostly true about me 4
Somewhat true about me 3
A little true about me 2
Not true about me 1