

Social Support – Immediate Family

Adapted from: Hamby, Grych, & Banyard, 2013; Turner, Finkelhor, & Ormrod, 2010; 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 from members of an individual’s immediate family. Items 1 and 2 are original to the Life Paths study and are designed to assess access to more tangible forms of support, an aspect missing from most social support questionnaires. Items 2 through 6 were adapted for NatSCEV (Turner et al., 2010) from Zimet et al., (1988).

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, four were maintained in this factor in addition to two items (1 and 2) originally from a measure of Tangible Family Resources. Internal consistencies (coefficient alphas) for the pilot and main samples are 0.82 and 0.88, respectively. Validity was established in the main sample with moderate to strong correlations with other measures of interpersonal strengths, such as Compassion ($r = .37$) and Community Support ($r = .35$), in addition to Meaning Making–Other-oriented ($r = .50$) and Subjective Well-being ($r = .52$).

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 familial 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. I could borrow more than \$100 from my parents or other family member if I needed it.
 - Mostly true about me 4
 - Somewhat true about me 3
 - A little true about me 2
 - Not true about me 1
- 2. I could borrow a car or get a ride from my parents or other family member if I needed it.
 - Mostly true about me 4
 - Somewhat true about me 3
 - A little true about me 2
 - Not true about me 1
- 3. My family really tries to help me.
 - Mostly true about me 4
 - Somewhat true about me 3
 - A little true about me 2
 - Not true about me 1
- 4. My family lets me know that they care about me.
 - Mostly true about me 4
 - Somewhat true about me 3
 - A little true about me 2
 - Not true about me 1
- 5. I can talk about my problems with my family.
 - Mostly true about me 4
 - Somewhat true about me 3
 - A little true about me 2
 - Not true about me 1
- 6. My family is willing to help me make decisions.

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