

Parent-Child Coercion Scale

Title	Parent-Child Coercion Scale
Domain	Interpersonal & Social Processes
Type	Self-report
Duration (min)	2
Description	This 9-item self-report scale assesses a parent's perception of how much coercion characterizes their relationship with their child.
OSF Link	
Adult/Child	child
Computerized	computerized
Identified	1

Identified Description

Coercive Family Process Theory (Patterson, 1982) is one of the most highly developed and influential interpersonal models of dyadic family conflict. Coercion Theory builds off of Social Learning Theory, the foremost cognitive behavioral approach to behavior. Coercion Theory explains how, despite their unpleasant and destructive qualities, hostile escalation sequences are reinforced for both persons. Patterson posited that people learn coercive behavior through the ways in which conflicts are resolved. Over time, if Person A responds to Person B's escalating aversive behavior by giving in (thus ceasing his/her own aversive behavior), B learns to escalate to get his/her way. Importantly, both persons' behaviors are maintained through reinforcement. B is negatively reinforced for escalating (via A shutting up) and may be positively reinforced as well (via A doing what B was asking for in the argument). A is negatively reinforced for giving in (via the termination of B's aversive behavior). Over time, these conflicts serve as learning trials. Of course, B does not always win. Sometimes, B backs down in response to the A's aversive escalation. Thus, once a coercive process takes hold, both members of the dyad are faced with an unfortunate choice: (a) give in and lose the battle, or (b) win via out-escalating the other. This process leads to ever darker, bitter battles. In Patterson's (1976, p. 1) exquisite phrasing, each person is both "victim and architect of a coercive system."

As noted in a review of the literature by Repetti et al., (2002, an exhaustive review of the impact of negative family environments on children), a sizable literature links hostile parent-child

relationships to (a) problems with social-cognitive and affective processes, such as self-regulation of emotion and behavior; (b) physiological stress reactivity processes, especially in the neuroendocrine axes and in immune functioning; and (c) poor health outcomes.

Identified Supporting Documentation	Repetti-2002-Risky-families-Family-social-environments-and-the-mental-and-physical-health-of-offspring.pdf
Identified PMCID, PUBMED ID, or CITATION	Text Citation: Patterson, G. R. (1982). Coercive family processes. Eugene, OR: Castilla Press. Text Citation: Repetti, R. L., Taylor, S. E., & Seeman, T. E. (2002). Risky families: Family social environments and the mental and physical health of offspring. Psychological Bulletin, 128, 330-366. doi: 10.1037//0033-2909.128.2.330
Measured	1
Measured Description	The PCCS (n = 570) was unifactorial with excellent internal consistency ($\alpha = .91$). IRT analyses (n = 570) revealed that reliability increases at higher levels of the coercion construct. Moreover, the PCCS exhibited concurrent validity (n ranged from 524 to 568) relative to positive parenting (r = -.28), overreactive discipline (r = .55), lax discipline (r = .38), as well as parent-child emotional aggression (r = .62), and corporal punishment (r = .54), ps < .001.
Measured Supporting Documentation	
Measured PMCID, PUBMED ID, or CITATION	
Influenced	
Influenced Description	
Influenced Supporting Documentation	
Influenced PMCID, PUBMED ID, or CITATION	
Outcome (Validated vs Invalidated)	
Outcome	
Outcome Description	
Outcome Supporting Documentation	
Outcome	

PMCID,
PUBMED ID, or
CITATION

Owner	Danielle Mitnick Send email to Danielle
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