

Protective Factors Survey background information

The FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention spearheaded a project to develop a Protective Factors Survey (PFS) for its network of federally-funded Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) programs in 2004. The project was initiated to help programs better assess changes in family protective factors.

The Protective Factors Survey is a product of the FRIENDS Network in collaboration with the University of Kansas Institute for Educational Research and Public Service. The instrument was developed with the advice and assistance of researchers, administrators, workers, and experts specializing in family support and maltreatment and psychological measurement. The survey has undergone three national field tests.

Purpose and Use

The PFS is designed for use with caregivers receiving child abuse and neglect prevention services. The instrument measures protective factors in five areas: family functioning and resiliency, social support, concrete support, nurturing and attachment and knowledge of parenting & child development. The primary purpose of the Protective Factors Survey is to provide feedback to agencies for continuous improvement and evaluation purposes. The survey results are designed to provide the following information:

- A snapshot of the families you serve
- Changes in protective factors
- Areas where workers can focus on increasing individual family protective factors

Description

The Protective Factors Survey is a pencil and paper survey. The survey takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. The instrument is divided into two sections: the first section is completed by a program staff member and the second section is completed by the program participant. The participant portion of the survey contains the core questions of the survey. In the demographic section, participants are asked to provide details about their family composition, income and involvement in services. This will assist you in gathering demographic data about the population that you serve. In the family protective factors section, participants are asked to respond to a series of statements about their family, using a seven-point frequency or agreement scale. The following table provides a brief summary of the multiple protective factors covered in the survey.

Protective Factor	Definition
Family Functioning & Resiliency (5 items)	Having adaptive skills and strategies to persevere in times of crisis. Family's ability to openly share positive and negative experiences and mobilize to accept, solve and manage problems.
Social Support (3 items)	Perceived informal support (from family, friends and neighbors) that helps provide for emotional needs.

Concrete Support (3 items)	Perceived access to tangible goods and services to help families cope with stress, particularly in times of crisis or intensified need.
Child Development & Knowledge of Parenting (5 items)	Understanding and utilizing effective child management techniques and having age-appropriate expectations for children's abilities.
Nurturing and Attachment (4 items)	The emotional tie along with a pattern of positive interaction between the parent and child that develops over time.

OCTF grantees using the following types of funded programs must administer the Protective Factors Survey and submit survey results to the Trust Fund in their semiannual and annual program reports:

- Programs providing a direct service to parents and/or primary caregivers are required to administer the full Protective Factors Survey.
- All programs, except those that are school-based, are required to collect demographic information by having participants complete the first two pages of the Protective Factors Survey.