

THE MACARTHUR RISK ASSESSMENT STUDY

RECONCILED VIOLENCE (INCIDENT LEVEL RECONCILIATION GRID)

Coding Manual

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
INCLUSION CRITERIA	1
RECONCILIATION PROCEDURES	2
INCIDENT LEVEL RECONCILIATION GRID*	3

NOTE: Variables for the baseline interview begin with the letter “r”, variables for follow-up interviews (i.e. follow-up interviews 1-5) begin with the letters “ar”, “br”, “cr”, “dr”, and “er”, respectively.

* A copy of the grid is attached at the end of this file

MacArthur Violence Risk Assessment Study

Violent Incident Coding Rules

INTRODUCTION

This document describes the coding rules used by the MacArthur Foundation Violence Risk Assessment Study to construct reconciled reports of violent incidents from a variety of sources, including subject self-reports, collateral informant reports, official arrest records, hospital admitting incident chart information, and re-hospitalization records. **Important Note: No collateral informants were interviewed at baseline, therefore there is NO collateral data included in the BASELINE reconciled violence variables. All follow-up variables DO include collateral informant data.**

For all sources, the date of the incident was recorded along with the type of violent act engaged in by the subject (for arrest reports, arrest charges were recorded). Self-reports from subjects and collaterals also included detailed descriptions of each violent incident (i.e., in terms of incident location, victim relationships, seriousness and type of injury to victim, and whether a weapon was used). For serious incidents involving weapons or injury, a detailed narrative report was also obtained.

Subject and collateral sources were rated by project interviewers in terms of their honesty in reporting - on a five-point Likert scale ranging from 1=Honest to 5=Untruthful. These sources were also rated in terms of whether they were perceived as over or under-reporting violence, or accurately reporting violence.

All violent incidents were systematically reviewed, independently coded, and discussed by two trained coders whose tasks were: (1) to determine whether incident reports met the inclusion criteria for the reconciled variable; (2) to identify matching incident reports across multiple sources; and (3) for matching incident reports, to select the version of events that would be accepted in the reconciled variable.

The specific rules for accomplishing these tasks are described below.

I. INCLUSION CRITERIA

If the subject reported a violent incident(s) that did not match with a collateral report (and the subject was deemed ‘accurate’ by project interviewers), his or version of events was accepted.

The collateral’s version of violent events was accepted if the collateral was (1) present during the incident; or (2) the victim of the incident; or (3) heard about the incident from either the subject or victim, regardless of whether the collateral’s version matched with a subject version.

If either the subject or collateral was deemed unreliable by the interviewer, we did not

include their version of violent events. By unreliable, we refer to cases for which the interviewer rated the reporting of violence as extremely untruthful in the direction of over-reporting violence

We always incorporated official reports of violence into the reconciled variable (e.g., rap sheet, re-hospitalization data, and admitting incident chart information) whether or not they matched with other sources.

II. IDENTIFY MATCHING INCIDENT REPORTS

Incidents reported by different sources were considered to **match** if they were recorded as occurring within **two weeks** of each other and seemed to depict the same violent event (e.g., based on the reported location, victim, and injury level). When no descriptive data were available, we relied solely on the incident date.

III. SELECT APPROPRIATE VERSION FROM INCIDENT MATCHES

If both the subject and collateral were judged by the interviewer as credible, we accepted the collateral's version of events (over the subject's) if the collateral was (1) present during the incident; or (2) the victim of the incident; or (3) heard about the incident from either the subject or victim.

This implies that we accepted the subject's version of a matching incident (rather than the collateral's) only if the collateral had heard about the incident third-hand (i.e., from some other person not involved in the incident). There were no special rules for collaterals who were mental health professionals.

If the subject reported violence (regardless of the interviewer's assessment of truthfulness) and the collateral was judged as accurately reporting that no violence occurred, we accepted the subject's report because we assumed that the collateral could not have full knowledge of the subject's behavior.

We thus interpreted a collateral's report of no violence to mean that, regardless of frequency of contact, the collateral could not remain completely aware of all of the subject's violent behavior.

If the collateral was judged by the interviewer as over-reporting violence and the subject was judged as accurately reporting that no violence occurred, we accepted the subject's version.

<u>Variable Name</u>	<u>Format</u>	<u>Question</u>	<u>Coding</u>
<u>INCIDENT LEVEL RECONCILIATION GRID</u>			
STUDYID	6	Study ID	CODE 6 DIGIT STUDY ID
RB1 to RB20	1	Incident Type	0 = Type unknown (report from official records) 1 = Threw something 2 = Pushed, grabbed, shoved 3 = Slapped 4 = Kicked, bitten, choked 5 = Hit w/fist or object 6 = Forced sex 7 = Threatened w/knife or gun 8 = Used knife or gun 9 = Other violence
RC1 to RC20	2	Number of times incident occurred	CODE # OF TIMES INCIDENT OCCURRED
		<u>Date of Incident</u>	
RDM1 to RDM20	2	Month	00 = Missing month &/or day 97/97/97 = Refused 98/98/98 = NA 99/99/99 = Don't know
RDD1 to RDD20	2	Day	
RDY1 to RDY20	2	Year	

<u>Variable Name</u>	<u>Format</u>	<u>Question</u>	<u>Coding</u>
RE1 to RE20	2	Location of Incident	01 = Subject's home 02 = Other residence 03 = Store/bank, etc. 04 = Fast food restaurant 05 = Bar/tavern 06 = Other commercial 07 = Work 08 = School 09 = Outdoors 10 = Outpatient treatment 96 = Other 97 = Refused 99 = Don't know
		<u>Victim(s) - List All</u>	CODE UP TO 3 VICTIMS
RF1.1 to RF20.1	1	First Victim	<i>If multiple victims, code victim with most serious injury first.</i> <i>Leave blank if no additional victims</i>
RF1.2 to RF20.2	1	Second Victim	0 = Collateral
RF1.3 to RF20.3	1	Third Victim	1 = Spouse/cohabitee/or ex any of the above 2 = Girlfriend/boyfriend/lover/non-cohabitee/ex-girl/boyfriend 3 = Child, non-spank 5 = Parental figure 6 = Other family 7 = Other known 8 = Stranger 9 = Don't know
RF1.1a to RF20.1a	1	First Victim - Sex	1 = Male 2 = Female 9 = Don't know
RF1.2a to RF20.2a	1	Second Victim - Sex	
RF1.3a to RF20.3a	1	Third Victim - Sex	

<u>Variable Name</u>	<u>Format</u>	<u>Question</u>	<u>Coding</u>
RG1 to RG20	1	Most Serious Injury of Incident	<p><i>If multiple victims, code most serious injury</i></p> <p>0 = No injury 1 = Bruises, cuts 2 = Unconscious, internal injuries, broken bones/teeth 3 = Stab / gunshot 4 = Death 7 = Other 8 = Injury, DK type 9 = Don't know</p>
RH1 to RH20	1	Weapon Type	<p>1 = Gun 2 = Knife 3 = Other 7 = Refused 8 = NA 9 = Don't know</p>
RI1 to RI20	1	If Weapon Threat	<p>0 = No weapon 1 = In hand 2 = In room 3 = In building 4 = Elsewhere 5 = Will obtain 7 = Refused 8 = NA 9 = Don't know</p>
RJ1.1 to RJ20.1	1	Collateral Knowledge Source 1	<p><i>Code up to 2 sources</i></p> <p>1 = Collateral present 2 = Heard about incident from subject</p>
RJ1.2 to RJ20.2	1	Collateral Knowledge Source 2	<p>3 = Heard about incident from victim 4 = Heard about incident from another who was present 5 = Heard about incident from another who was not present 8 = NA 9 = Don't know</p>

<u>Variable Name</u>	<u>Format</u>	<u>Question</u>	<u>Coding</u>
RK1.1 to RK20.1	2	Arrest Charge 1	<i>Code up to 3 charges per incident</i> SEE CRIME CLASSIFICATION CODES
RK1.2 to RK20.2	2	Arrest Charge 2	
RK1.3 to RK20.3	2	Arrest Charge 3	
RL1 to RL20	1	Violence Level for Incident	0 = Level 2 violence 1 = Level 1 Violence 9 = Violence, DK level
<u>Information Source</u>			
RM1 to RM20	1	Subject	0 = No 1 = Yes 2 = Version (<i>i.e. this is the version selected as the most accurate incident description</i>)
RN1 to RN20	1	Collateral	
RO1 to RO20	1	Rap Sheet	8 = NA 9 = Don't know
RP1 to RP20	1	Hospital Data	
RQ1 to RQ20	1	Level of Provocation (Level 1 Incidents)	0 = Unprovoked 1 = Physical attack 2 = Threat 3 = Insult 4 = Defense of other(s) 8 = NA 9 = Don't know

INCIDENT LEVEL RECONCILIATION GRID

STUDY ID: _____

FOLLOW-UP #: _____

I N C I D E N T T Y P E	#	DATE	LOCATION 01=subj home 02=other res 03=store/ bank 04=fast food restaurant 05=bar/tavern 06=other com 07=work 08=school 09=outdoors 10=outpt Tx 96=other 97=refused 99=DK	VICTIMS (Up to 3 w/sex)				INJURY (most serious) 0=no injury 1=bruises, cuts 2=unconscious broken bones 3=stab/shot 4=death 7=other 8=Inj, DK type 9=DK	WEAPON 1=gun 2=knife 3=other 7=refused 8=NA 9=DK	IF WEAPON THREAT 0=no weapon 1=in hand 2=in room 3=in bldg 4=else- where 5=will obtain 7=refused 9=DK	COLLATERAL KNOWLEDGE SOURCE (Code up to 2) 1=collateral present 2=heard from subj 3=heard from victim 4=heard from other present 5=heard from other 8=NA 9=DK	ARREST CHARGES (Up to 3) (See Crime Codes)	VIOL LEVEL 0=Level 2 1=Level 1 9=Violent, DK level	INFORMATION SOURCE				LEVEL OF Provoca- tion (Level 1 incident) 0=Not provoked 1=Phys attack 2=Threat 3=Insult 4=Def of other 8=NA 9=DK
				SUBJECT 0=No 1=Yes 2=Version 8=NA	COLLAT 0=No 1=Yes 2=Version 8=NA	RAP SHEET 0=No 1=Yes 2=Version 8=NA	HOSPITAL DATA 0=No 1=Yes 2=Version 9=DK (Chart info Baseline only)											

* = Admitting Incident, Baseline Only

