

# Protective Factors Survey

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Institute for Educational Research and Public Service  
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# Overview

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- Background
- Field Studies
  - Purposes
  - Protocol
  - Findings

# The Strengthening Families Model and the PFS

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## CSSP Protective Factors

## PFS Protective Factors

Parental Resilience



Family Functioning/Resiliency

Social Connections



Social Emotional Support

Knowledge of Parenting



Knowledge of Parenting/Child  
Development

Concrete Support in Times  
of Need



Concrete Support

Social & Emotional  
Competence of Children

Nurturing and Attachment

# Purpose of the PFS Pilot Studies

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- Obtain small set of items that tap protective factors
- Explore relationship of PFS with other measures of risk factors for child maltreatment
- Examine the *predictive* validity of the PFS
- Evaluate the PFS' ability to assess changes in protective factors

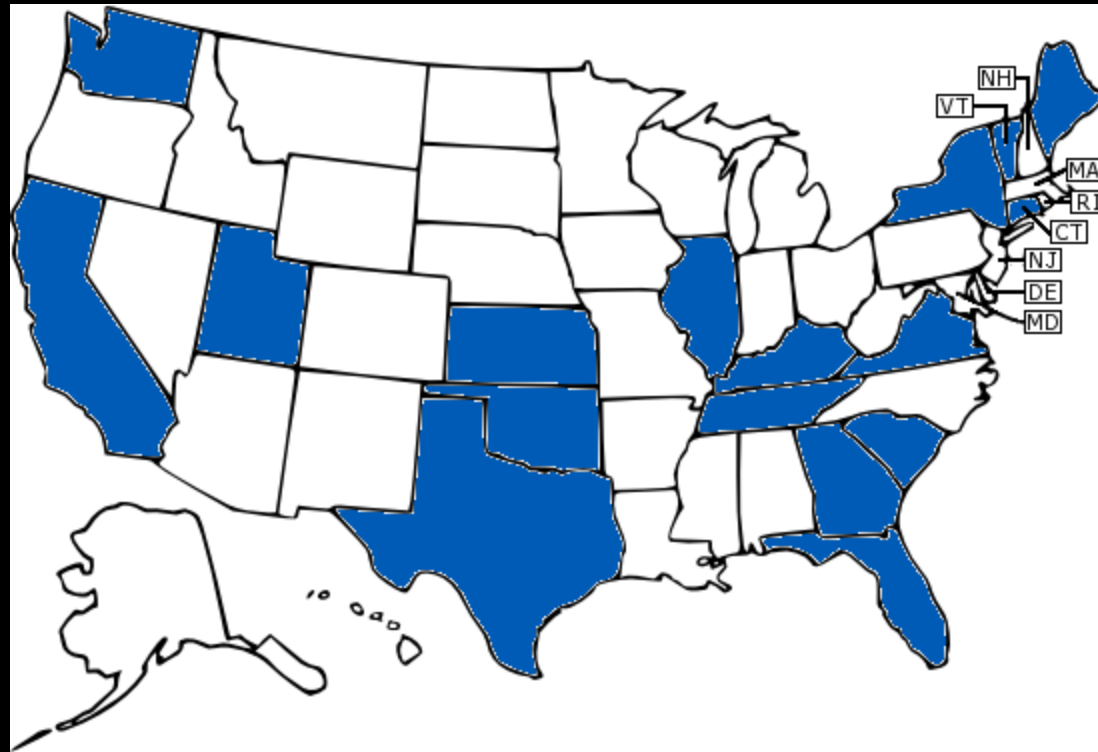
# Protocol

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- Recruitment of national sample
- Training materials/sessions
- Data entry
- Reports

# Participants

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Participating  
states: Phases I,  
II, III, and IV

# Findings

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# Factors and Items

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- Factory analysis revealed multiple protective factors\*
- Final items selected through...
  - Expert review
  - EFA/CFA
  - Interpretability

\* Child Development/Knowledge of Parenting excluded from factor analysis

# The relationship between the PFS & other measures

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- All four subscales of the PFS were:
  - significantly negatively correlated with child abuse potential and stress
  - significantly positively related to optimism and the adaptive coping strategy of positive reframing
- All of the PFS subscales except Concrete Support were significantly negatively related to depression and positively related to positive affect

# Predictive validity of the PFS

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- Time One PFS subscales were negatively related to Time Two stress and depression
- Time One PFS subscales were positively related to all six subscales of the *Rand Health Survey* at Time Two

# Additional Phase IV Findings

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- Preliminary evidence of PFS' ability to detect change over time
- Differences between pre-test and retrospective ratings
- Need for additional research

# Survey Administration

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# Survey Administration

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- Staff preparation
- Setting
  - Individual or group
- Instructions
  - Checklists
  - Scripts
  - Paraphrasing

# Resources

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- Survey materials
  - Training manual, PFS technical information handout, survey, reports all available at [www.friendsnrc.org](http://www.friendsnrc.org)
  - FRIENDS database

# Score Interpretation

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- Scoring protocol in manual
- Interpreting factor scores
- Child Development items
- Program use