Department for Education

THE TAVISTOCK INSTITUTE®

User Guide

A survey carried out on behalf of the Department for Education as part of the evaluation of the Adoption Support Fund by the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations

1. Introduction

The dataset contains survey data from the evaluation of the Adoption Support Fund (ASF). The Tavistock Institute of Human Relations (TIHR) was commissioned by the Department for Education to evaluate the national roll out of the ASF. The ASF was implemented by the Department for Education to help families access the adoption support they need. After the successful pilot of the ASF in 10 local authority areas the ASF was rolled out across all 152 Local Authorities in England on the 1st May 2015. The approach to the evaluation was a formative and summative evaluation using mixed-methods including:

- Online-survey of adopters to study the experience and need of adoption support services after the implementation of the ASF;
- Longitudinal whole family depth interviews to better understand their experiences with the ASF;
- National rollout case studies to explore the experiences of Local Authorities with the fund, e.g., in relation to market development of therapeutic services;
- Prototype reviews in the ten pilot areas to learn about enablers and barriers of the implementation of the ASF as well as explore their experiences in the second year.
- Longitudinal survey of all adoptive parents receiving funding through the ASF to explore their experiences of using the fund and the impact of therapeutic services that they have been able to access through the ASF;

The overall aim of the evaluation was to inform the ongoing implementation of the ASF, learn about the impact on the adoption support market and about the impact on the adopted children and their families. The longitudinal survey particularly aimed at learning about adoptive families' experiences of using the Adoption Support Fund and to evaluate the impact of the therapeutic interventions that have been accessed using the ASF.

The evaluation report, including the analysis of the longitudinal survey and further details about the methodology, can be found here https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adoption-support-fund-evaluation.

2. Survey Design

The longitudinal survey comprised two self-completion postal questionnaires with a pre-intervention baseline questionnaire completed soon after approval of the application to the ASF and a post-intervention follow-up questionnaire completed seven months later to measure change over time in adoptive families accessing the ASF, Adoptive families were recruited onto the study by adoption support staff in each local authority in England at the point that their application was made to the ASF. Recruitment was built into the application process to the Fund. Once applications to the ASF were approved by the Fund administrator the contact details of parents who had provided consent were made available to Qa research (the survey administrator) via a secure online portal and first-wave surveys were mailed within one week along with instructions to complete and return within

the following 2 weeks. Parents who had provided initial consent, but did not respond to the first letter, were sent a reminder letter 3 weeks after the first.

The target population for the survey was all families accessing the Fund in its first year of operation, from May 2015 to May 2016. Until the end of May 2,053 parents applying to the Fund also provided consent to be contacted which represents 40% of the number of approved applications with a unique code. Of this group, 1,538 provided full contact details. Overall the sample of completed and returned baseline questionnaires represents 15% of families with approved applications to the Fund and 51% of population of families who consented and provided full contact details. Of the families that completed the first survey 61% also completed the second survey representing 31% of the population of adopters that gave consent and provided full contact details.

The baseline survey collected information about the family situation, experiences with the assessment and on measures on family's wellbeing and children's behaviour and development. The main aim of the follow-up survey was to collect follow-up measures on family's wellbeing and children's behaviour and development. The second survey also aimed at exploring families' experiences with the support they have received through the ASF.

The research instruments employed for the surveys included a mixture of validated psychometric scales, non-validated scales and bespoke questions. The bespoke questions in the baseline survey aimed to obtain demographic information; information on current status and circumstances of the family and their historical support needs, explore their expectations of the interventions, and experiences of the assessment and application process. Bespoke questions in the follow-up survey aimed to collect information about changes in the family situation, information about the support received and experiences with the overall process as well as the received support.

The standardised scales aimed to assess (1) child behaviour, development and wellbeing, (2) family functioning, parental efficacy, and parent-child attachment, and (3) parental wellbeing.

The standardised scales chosen for this survey were:

- The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire[1] (SDQ) – a 25 item behavioural screening tool plus impact supplement questions;
- The Brief Assessment Checklist[2] (BAC-C/ BAC-A), (both Child and Adolescent versions depending on the age of the assessed child) - a 20 item psychiatric assessment scale;
- The Carer Questionnaire – an 11 item scale to assess parent child relationship; and,
- The Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale[3] (SWEMWBS) – a 7 item mental wellbeing assessment scale.

[1] © Robert Goodman, 2009

[2] © Michael Tarren-Sweeney, PhD, 2012. Copyright for the BAC-C is held by the author. This instrument may only be used, copied or downloaded for legitimate mental health screening, casework monitoring and research purposes. It should not be altered without the author's permission.

[3] © NHS Health Scotland, University of Warwick and University of Edinburgh, 2006, all rights reserved.

3. Data

A subset of the original dataset is available to use. Variables in the data file include demographic information about the child, parent or family to whom the scales apply as well psychometric scales mentioned above. The dataset does not include responses to questions specifically about the Adoption Support Fund and responses to open-ended questions.

The data file contains both surveys. The data of the baseline survey and the data of the follow-up were combined according to the unique code of each respondent.

3.1. Variables

The data file includes for each variable a label and if applicable data values and missing values. Variable labels refer to the question (including question number) in the baseline or follow-up questionnaire. Missing values are mostly coded as follows:

- -1 'not reported'
- -2 'not applicable'
- -3 'not reported or not applicable'

The table below (Table 1) presents the list of variables included in the data file from the baseline survey. Table 2 presents the same information for variables from the follow-up survey

Table 1: Variables from baseline survey.

Name	Description	Notes
Q1a	Date of completion of baseline survey	
Q1b	Existence of co-parent	
Q1bi_You	Gender of parent	
Q1bi_Co	Gender of co-parent	
Q1bii_You	Age of parent	
Q1bii_Co	Age of co-parent	
Q1biii_You	Relationship status of parent	
Q1biii_Co	Relationship status of co-parent	
Q1biv_You	Highest educational qualification of parent	
Q1biv_Co	Highest educational qualification of co-parent	
Q1bv_You	Ethnicity of parent	
Q1bv_Co	Ethnicity of co-parent	
Q2_1 - Q2_7	Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (SWEMWBS)	
Q4i_1 - Q4vi	The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)	25 items and impact supplement questions
Q5_U_1 - Q5_U_20	Brief Assessment Checklist for Children (BAC-C)	
Q5_T_1 - Q5_T_20	Brief Assessment Checklist for Adolescents (BAC-A)	

Q6	Aggression towards friends and classmates	
Q7	Aggression towards members of family	
Q8_1 – Q8_19	Receipt of services excluding services provided through the ASF	
Q9 – Q19	The Carer Questionnaire	

Table 2: Variables from follow-up survey.

Name	Description	Notes
FirstSurvey	Memory of completing first survey	
F1a	Date of completion of follow-up survey	
F1b	Existence of co-parent	
F1f	Child living with the family	'Not applicable' indicates that the child is still living in the family
F2_1 - F2_7	Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (SWEMWBS)	
F4i_1 - F4vi	The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)	
F5_U_1 - F5_U_20	Brief Assessment Checklist for Children (BAC-C)	
F5_T_1 - F5_T_20	Brief Assessment Checklist for Adolescents (BAC-A)	
F6	Aggression towards friends and classmates	
F7	Aggression towards members of family	
F8_1 - F8_19	Receipt of services excluding services provided through the ASF	
F9 – F19	The Carer Questionnaire	
F20	Receipt of support through the ASF	

3.2. Derived variables

The data file also includes a number of derived variables, which include the psychometric scales. Table 3 gives an overview of the derived variables and further information is presented below the table.

Table 3: Derived variables

Name	Description	Notes
N_children	Number of children	Variables that this variable is based on are not included in the data file
Q4i_7b, Q4i_11b, Q4i_14b, Q4i_21b, Q4i_25b, Q4ivb, Q4v_1b, Q4v_2b, Q4v_3b, Q4v_4b	Recoded items of SDQ items at baseline	

Q17b, Q18b, Q19b	Recoded items of the 'The Carer Questionnaire' at baseline	
F4i_7b, F4i_11b, F4i_14b, F4i_21b, F4i_25b, F4ivb, F4v_1b, F4v_2b, F4v_3b, F4v_4b	Recoded items of SDQ items at follow-up	
F17b, F18b, F19b	Recoded items of the 'The Carer Questionnaire' at follow-up	
Type	Type of BAC measure	
SWEMWBS	SWEMWBS sum score at baseline	
Metric_Score	SWEMWBS metric score at baseline	
pemotion	SDQ emotional symptoms subscale at baseline	
pconduct	SDQ conduct problems subscale at baseline	
phyper	SDQ hyperactivity/inattention subscale at baseline	
ppeer	SDQ peer relationship problems subscale at baseline	
pprosoc	SDQ prosocial behaviour subscale at baseline	
pebdtot	SDQ total score at baseline	
pimpact	SDQ impact subscale at baseline	
BAC_C	BAC-C sum score at baseline	
BAC_A	BAC-A sum score at baseline	
Carer	Carer Questionnaire sum score at baseline	
SWEMWBSF	SWEMWBS sum score at follow-up	
Metric_ScoreF	SWEMWBS metric score at follow-up	
pemotionF	SDQ emotional symptoms subscale at follow-up	
pconductF	SDQ conduct problems subscale at follow-up	
phyperF	SDQ hyperactivity/inattention subscale at follow-up	
ppeerF	SDQ peer relationship problems subscale at follow-up	
pprosocF	SDQ prosocial behaviour subscale at follow-up	
pebdtotF	SDQ total score at follow-up	
pimpactF	SDQ impact subscale at follow-up	
BAC_C_F	BAC-C sum score at follow-up	
BAC_A_F	BAC-A sum score at follow-up	
CarerF	Carer Questionnaire sum score at follow-up	

N_children

SPSS Syntax

```
IF  ((Q1bvi_Gender_1 =1 OR Q1bvi_Gender_1 =2)) N_children=1.
IF  ((Q1bvi_Gender_1 =1 OR Q1bvi_Gender_1 =2) AND  (Q1bvi_Gender_2 =1 OR Q1bvi_Gender_2
```

```
=2)) N_children=2.
IF  ((Q1bvi_Gender_1 =1 OR Q1bvi_Gender_1 =2) AND  (Q1bvi_Gender_2 =1 OR Q1bvi_Gender_2
=2) AND (Q1bvi_Gender_3=1 OR Q1bvi_Gender_3=2)) N_children=3.
IF  ((Q1bvi_Gender_1 =1 OR Q1bvi_Gender_1 =2) AND  (Q1bvi_Gender_2 =1 OR Q1bvi_Gender_2
=2) AND (Q1bvi_Gender_3=1 OR Q1bvi_Gender_3=2)
 AND (Q1bvi_Gender_4 =1 OR Q1bvi_Gender_4 =2)) N_children=4.
IF  ((Q1bvi_Gender_1 =1 OR Q1bvi_Gender_1 =2) AND  (Q1bvi_Gender_2 =1 OR Q1bvi_Gender_2
=2) AND (Q1bvi_Gender_3=1 OR Q1bvi_Gender_3=2)
 AND (Q1bvi_Gender_4 =1 OR Q1bvi_Gender_4 =2) AND (Q1bvi_Gender_5=1 OR
Q1bvi_Gender_5=2)) N_children=5.
EXECUTE.
RECODE N_children (SYSMIS = -1).
EXECUTE.
MISSING VALUES  N_children  (-1).
VALUE LABELS  N_children
-1 'not reported'.
VARIABLE LABELS  N_children
'Number of children'.
*Manually recode 6 if reported in open text box.
```

Q4i_7b, Q4i_11b, Q4i_14b, Q4i_21b, Q4i_25b, Q4ivb, Q4v_1b, Q4v_2b, Q4v_3b, Q4v_4b

SPSS Syntax

```
RECODE Q4i_7 (0=2) (1=1) (2=0) (ELSE=SYSMIS) INTO Q4i_7b.
EXECUTE.
RECODE Q4i_11 (0=2) (1=1) (2=0) (ELSE=SYSMIS) INTO Q4i_11b .
EXECUTE .
RECODE Q4i_14 (0=2) (1=1) (2=0) (ELSE=SYSMIS) INTO Q4i_14b .
EXECUTE .
RECODE Q4i_21 (0=2) (1=1) (2=0) (ELSE=SYSMIS) INTO Q4i_21b .
EXECUTE .
RECODE Q4i_25 (0=2) (1=1) (2=0) (ELSE=SYSMIS) INTO Q4i_25b.
EXECUTE .
RECODE Q4iv (0=0) (1=0) (2=1) (3=2) (ELSE=SYSMIS) INTO Q4ivb.
EXECUTE .
RECODE Q4v_1 (0=0) (1=0) (2=1) (3=2) (ELSE=SYSMIS) INTO Q4v_1b.
EXECUTE .
RECODE Q4v_2 (0=0) (1=0) (2=1) (3=2) (ELSE=SYSMIS) INTO Q4v_2b.
EXECUTE .
RECODE Q4v_3 (0=0) (1=0) (2=1) (3=2) (ELSE=SYSMIS) INTO Q4v_3b.
EXECUTE .
RECODE Q4v_4 (0=0) (1=0) (2=1) (3=2) (ELSE=SYSMIS) INTO Q4v_4b.
EXECUTE.
```

Q17b, Q18b, Q19b

SPSS Syntax

```
RECODE Q17 (1=10) (2=9) (3=8) (4=7) (5=6) (6=5) (7=4) (8=3) (9=2) (10=1) INTO Q17b.
EXECUTE.
RECODE Q18 (1=10) (2=9) (3=8) (4=7) (5=6) (6=5) (7=4) (8=3) (9=2) (10=1) INTO Q18b.
```

```
EXECUTE.
RECODE Q19 (1=10) (2=9) (3=8) (4=7) (5=6) (6=5) (7=4) (8=3) (9=2) (10=1) INTO Q19b.
EXECUTE.
```

F4i_7b, F4i_11b, F4i_14b, F4i_21b, F4i_25b, F4ivb, F4v_1b, F4v_2b, F4v_3b, F4v_4b

SPSS Syntax

```
RECODE F4i_7 (0=2) (1=1) (2=0) (ELSE=SYSMIS) INTO F4i_7b.
EXECUTE .
RECODE F4i_11 (0=2) (1=1) (2=0) (ELSE=SYSMIS) INTO F4i_11b .
EXECUTE .
RECODE F4i_14 (0=2) (1=1) (2=0) (ELSE=SYSMIS) INTO F4i_14b .
EXECUTE .
RECODE F4i_21 (0=2) (1=1) (2=0) (ELSE=SYSMIS) INTO F4i_21b .
EXECUTE .
RECODE F4i_25 (0=2) (1=1) (2=0) (ELSE=SYSMIS) INTO F4i_25b.
EXECUTE .
RECODE F4iv (0=0) (1=0) (2=1) (3=2) (ELSE=SYSMIS) INTO F4ivb.
EXECUTE .
RECODE F4v_1 (0=0) (1=0) (2=1) (3=2) (ELSE=SYSMIS) INTO F4v_1b.
EXECUTE .
RECODE F4v_2 (0=0) (1=0) (2=1) (3=2) (ELSE=SYSMIS) INTO F4v_2b.
EXECUTE .
RECODE F4v_3 (0=0) (1=0) (2=1) (3=2) (ELSE=SYSMIS) INTO F4v_3b.
EXECUTE .
RECODE F4v_4 (0=0) (1=0) (2=1) (3=2) (ELSE=SYSMIS) INTO F4v_4b.
EXECUTE.
```

F17b, F18b, F19b

SPSS Syntax

```
RECODE F17 (1=10) (2=9) (3=8) (4=7) (5=6) (6=5) (7=4) (8=3) (9=2) (10=1) INTO F17b.
EXECUTE.
RECODE F18 (1=10) (2=9) (3=8) (4=7) (5=6) (6=5) (7=4) (8=3) (9=2) (10=1) INTO F18b.
EXECUTE.
RECODE F19 (1=10) (2=9) (3=8) (4=7) (5=6) (6=5) (7=4) (8=3) (9=2) (10=1) INTO F19b.
EXECUTE.
```

SWEMWBS

SPSS Syntax

```
COMPUTE SWEMWBS=SUM.7(Q2_1,Q2_2,Q2_3,Q2_4,Q2_5,Q2_6,Q2_7).
EXECUTE.
```

Metric_Score

SPSS Syntax

```
RECODE SWEMWBS (7=7) (8=9.51) (9=11.25) (10=12.40) (11=13.33) (12=14.08) (13=14.75)
(14=15.32)
   (15=15.84) (16=16.36) (17=16.88) (18=17.43) (19=17.98) (20=18.59) (21=19.25) (22=19.98)
(23=20.73)
   (24=21.54) (25=22.35) (26=23.21) (27=24.11) (28=25.03) (29=26.02) (30=27.03) (31=28.13)
(32=29.31)
   (33=30.70) (34=32.55) (35=35) INTO Metric_Score.
EXECUTE.
```

pemotion

SPSS Syntax

```
COMPUTE pemotion = RND(MEAN.3(Q4i_3,Q4i_8,Q4i_13,Q4i_16,Q4i_24) * 5) .
 EXECUTE .
```

pconduct

SPSS Syntax

```
COMPUTE pconduct = RND(MEAN.3(Q4i_5,Q4i_7b ,Q4i_12,Q4i_18,Q4i_22) * 5) .
 EXECUTE .
```

phyper

SPSS Syntax

```
COMPUTE phyper = RND(MEAN.3(Q4i_2,Q4i_10,Q4i_15,Q4i_21b,Q4i_25b)* 5) .
 EXECUTE .
```

ppeer

SPSS Syntax

```
COMPUTE ppeer = RND(MEAN.3(Q4i_6,Q4i_11b, Q4i_14b,Q4i_19,Q4i_23) * 5) .
 EXECUTE
```

pprosoc

SPSS Syntax

```
COMPUTE pprosoc = RND(MEAN.3(Q4i_1,Q4i_4,Q4i_9,Q4i_17,Q4i_20) * 5) .
 EXECUTE .
```

pebdtot

SPSS Syntax

```
COMPUTE pebdtot = SUM.4(pemotion,pconduct,phyper,ppeer) .
 EXECUTE
```

pimpact

```
SPSS Syntax
COMPUTE pimpact = SUM.1(Q4ivb, Q4v_1b, Q4v_2b, Q4v_3b, Q4v_4b).
 EXECUTE .
 IF (Q4ii=0) pimpact=0 .
 EXECUTE .
```

BAC_C

```
SPSS Syntax
COMPUTE
BAC_C=SUM.18(Q5_U_1,Q5_U_2,Q5_U_3,Q5_U_4,Q5_U_5,Q5_U_6,Q5_U_7,Q5_U_8,Q5_U_9,Q5_
U_10,Q5_U_11,
   Q5_U_12,Q5_U_13,Q5_U_14,Q5_U_15,Q5_U_16,Q5_U_17,Q5_U_18,Q5_U_19,Q5_U_20).
EXECUTE.
DO IF (Type = "T").
RECODE BAC_C (SYSMIS=-2).
END IF.
EXECUTE.
```

BAC_A

```
SPSS Syntax
COMPUTE
BAC_A=SUM.18(Q5_T_1,Q5_T_2,Q5_T_3,Q5_T_4,Q5_T_5,Q5_T_6,Q5_T_7,Q5_T_8,Q5_T_9,Q5_T_1
0,Q5_T_11,
   Q5_T_12,Q5_T_13,Q5_T_14,Q5_T_15,Q5_T_16,Q5_T_17,Q5_T_18,Q5_T_19,Q5_T_20).
EXECUTE.
DO IF (Type = "U").
RECODE BAC_A (SYSMIS=-2).
END IF.
EXECUTE.
MISSING VALUES BAC_C, BAC_A (-2).
VALUE LABELS
BAC_C, BAC_A
-2 "not applicable".
```

Carer

```
SPSS Syntax
COMPUTE Carer = SUM.10(Q9, Q11, Q12, Q13, Q14, Q15, Q16, Q17b, Q18b, Q19b).
```

SWEMWBSF

```
SPSS Syntax
COMPUTE SWEMWBSF = SUM.7(F2_1, F2_2, F2_3, F2_4, F2_5, F2_6, F2_7).
EXECUTE.
```

Metric_ScoreF

SPSS Syntax

```
RECODE SWEMWBSF (7=7) (8=9.51) (9=11.25) (10=12.40) (11=13.33) (12=14.08) (13=14.75)
(14=15.32)
   (15=15.84) (16=16.36) (17=16.88) (18=17.43) (19=17.98) (20=18.59) (21=19.25) (22=19.98)
(23=20.73)
   (24=21.54) (25=22.35) (26=23.21) (27=24.11) (28=25.03) (29=26.02) (30=27.03) (31=28.13)
(32=29.31)
   (33=30.70) (34=32.55) (35=35) INTO Metric_ScoreF.
EXECUTE.
```

pemotionF

SPSS Syntax

```
COMPUTE pemotionF = RND(MEAN.3(F4i_3,F4i_8,F4i_13,F4i_16,F4i_24) * 5) .
 EXECUTE .
```

pconductF

SPSS Syntax

```
COMPUTE pconductF = RND(MEAN.3(F4i_5,F4i_7b ,F4i_12,F4i_18,F4i_22) * 5) .
 EXECUTE .
```

phyperF

SPSS Syntax

```
COMPUTE phyperF = RND(MEAN.3(F4i_2,F4i_10,F4i_15,F4i_21b,F4i_25b)* 5) .
 EXECUTE .
```

ppeerF

SPSS Syntax

```
COMPUTE ppeerF = RND(MEAN.3(F4i_6,F4i_11b, F4i_14b,F4i_19,F4i_23) * 5) .
 EXECUTE .
```

pprosocF

SPSS Syntax

```
COMPUTE pprosocF = RND(MEAN.3(F4i_1,F4i_4,F4i_9,F4i_17,F4i_20) * 5) .
 EXECUTE .
```

pebdtotF

SPSS Syntax

```
COMPUTE pebdtotF = SUM.4(pemotionF,pconductF,phyperF,ppeerF) .
 EXECUTE .
```

pimpactF

SPSS Syntax

```
COMPUTE pimpactF = SUM.1(F4ivb, F4v_1b, F4v_2b, F4v_3b, F4v_4b).
 EXECUTE .
 IF (F4ii=0) pimpactF=0 .
 EXECUTE .
```

BAC_C_F

SPSS Syntax

```
COMPUTE
BAC_C_F=SUM.18(F5_U_1,F5_U_2,F5_U_3,F5_U_4,F5_U_5,F5_U_6,F5_U_7,F5_U_8,F5_U_9,F5_U_1
0,F5_U_11,
   F5_U_12,F5_U_13,F5_U_14,F5_U_15,F5_U_16,F5_U_17,F5_U_18,F5_U_19,F5_U_20).
EXECUTE.
DO IF (Type = 2).
RECODE BAC_C_F (SYSMIS=-2).
END IF.
EXECUTE.
```

BAC_A_F

SPSS Syntax

```
COMPUTE
BAC_A_F=SUM.18(F5_T_1,F5_T_2,F5_T_3,F5_T_4,F5_T_5,F5_T_6,F5_T_7,F5_T_8,F5_T_9,F5_T_10,F
5_T_11,
   F5_T_12,F5_T_13,F5_T_14,F5_T_15,F5_T_16,F5_T_17,F5_T_18,F5_T_19,F5_T_20).
EXECUTE.
DO IF (Type = 1).
RECODE BAC_A_F (SYSMIS=-2).
END IF.
EXECUTE.
MISSING VALUES BAC_C_F, BAC_A_F (-2).
VALUE LABELS
BAC_C_F, BAC_A_F
-2 "not applicable".
```

CarerF

SPSS Syntax

```
COMPUTE CarerF = SUM.10(F9, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17b, F18b, F19b).
```

```
EXECUTE.
```

3.3. Notes about particular variables

In addition to the variables from both surveys a number of variables were included from the application dataset[4]. Table 4 presents these additional variables.

Table 4: Variables

Name	Description	Notes
Gender	Gender of child	
Ethnicitycategory	Ethnicity of child	
Age	Age of child at baseline	
Age_F	Age of child at follow-up	

[4] The application dataset refers to a data file managed by Mott MacDonald that contains information about every application to the Adoption Support Fund.