

Self-Report, Diary, and Interview Measures of Coparenting**Parent Reports**

- Abidin & Konold's Parenting Alliance Measure (see <http://www4.parinc.com/Products/Product.aspx?ProductID=PAM>)
  - don't recommend for some samples – little variability in romantically involved couples or new parents
- McHale (1997)'s Coparenting Scale, *Family Process*
  - measures covert as well as overt coparenting behaviors
  - poor internal consistency for subscales
- Stright & Bales (2003), *Family Relations*
  - based on Belsky et al.'s work
  - assesses support/undermining behavior
- \*Feinberg, Brown, & Kan's (2012) Coparenting Relationship Q, *Parenting: Science and Practice*
  - assesses agreement, closeness, exposure to conflict, support, undermining, endorsement of partner's parenting, and division of labor
  - 35 items; also a short 14-item version
- Margolin, Gordis, & John's (2001) Coparenting Questionnaire, *Journal of Family Psychology*
  - 3 dimensions: cooperation, conflict, triangulation
  - parents' perspective, but has been used with families with preschoolers and preadolescents
- Teubert & Pinquart's (2011) Coparenting Inventory for Parents and Adolescents, *European Journal of Psychological Assessment*
  - 3 dimensions: cooperation, conflict, triangulation
  - Reported from parents' and adolescent's perspective
- Family Experiences Questionnaire (Frank, Jacobson, & Avery, 1988)
  - 31-item General Alliance subcale
  - See Van Egeren & Hawkins (2004), *Journal of Adult Development*
- Ahrons (1981), *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*
  - Cooperation (4 items) and conflict (5 items)
  - Developed for divorced couples
- Discrepancy measures (self-reports) used to tap agreement part of solidarity (e.g., using Cowan's Ideas About Parenting measure– see McHale & Rotman, 2007), but use of discrepancy measures is controversial

\*probably most comprehensive self-report of coparenting available

## Diary measures

- Daily Coparenting Scale (D-Cop), developed by Brandon T. McDaniel
  - 10 items; focuses more on positive aspects of coparenting; 7-point Likert type scale
  - Evidence for reliability and validity; Meaningful variability from day-to-day
  - Results appear similar when completed over 7 or 14 days
  - Contact [btmcdaniel.phd@gmail.com](mailto:btmcdaniel.phd@gmail.com) for more information.

## Interview/Discussion measures

- McHale & Rotman (2007), *Infant Behavior & Development* – prenatal coparenting interview
- “triadic capacity” von Klitzing & Bürgin (2005), *Infant Mental Health Journal*
- Baker, McHale, Strozier, & Cecil (2010), *Family Process* – incarcerated mothers and grandmothers coparenting young children together

## Assessing coparenting in large data sets

- Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study <http://www.fragilefamilies.princeton.edu/>
  - When FATHER is with CHILD, he acts like the father you want for your child
  - You can trust FATHER to take good care of CHILD
  - He respects the schedules and rules you make for CHILD
  - He supports you in the way you want to raise CHILD
  - You and FATHER talk about problems that come up with raising CHILD
  - You can count on FATHER for help when you need someone to look after CHILD for a few hours
  - Responses range from 1-4, always, sometimes, rarely, or never true
- Elements of support, communication, endorsement, but...
- Got father’s perspective, but not used as often as mother’s perspective – Bronte-Tinkew & Horowitz (2010) use 3 items from father data
- Used in Kamp Dush, Kotila, & Schoppe-Sullivan, 2011, *Journal of Family Psychology*; Bronte-Tinkew & Horowitz, 2010, *JFI*; Carlson, McLanahan, & Brooks-Gunn, 2008, *Demography*
- Early Childhood Longitudinal Study
  - Communication - How often do you now talk about CHILD with FATHER? (several times/wk, once a wk, few times/month, several times/year, once/twice in child’s life, not at all)
  - Conflict – Do you and your spouse/partner often, sometimes, hardly ever, or never have arguments about your children?
  - Shared Decision-making – When it comes to making major decisions about the child, please tell me if the father has No Influence, Some Influence, or a Great Deal of Influence (discipline, nutrition, healthcare, childcare, and education)
- See, for ex: Cabrera et al., 2012, *Family Process*; Fagan & Cabrera, 2012, *Journal of Family Psychology*; Hohmann-Marriott, 2011, *Journal of Marriage and Family*