SCHOOL SELECTION

Although the general aim of the Add Health study was to collect a census of students within the school, a number of school or school groups fell considerably short of that goal for a variety of reasons. We thus exclude the following from our analysis: four schools in which the in-school survey was not taken, seven for which the feeder school refused to participate, two that focused on special education, and seven for which the survey required explicit parental consent and thus had high (> 40%) levels of missing data. We also exclude one school in which the roster of students was very incomplete (> 60% of in-school friendship nominations were to off-roster students). This leaves a total of 59 of the 80 schools. This subset contains one school more than the 58 used in the two official supplementary network data files provided by Add Health: the network summary measures that are part of the contract data set, and the “network structure” files that are part of the public data set. (See the Network Variables Code Book, National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, January 2001).