Psychometric Evaluation of the Sexual Assault Coping Self-Efficacy Scale

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Introduction

- Sexual assault is estimated to affect one out of every six women (Kilpatrick et al., 2007) and results in long-lasting psychosocial effects.
- Legal advocacy may be one important source of social support for victims of sexual assault. King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) provides such a legal advocacy program throughout the legal process for people who have experienced sexual assault.
- Coping self-efficacy (CSE) is the ability to adapt to stressful situations (Bandura, 1993). It decreases in response to stressful situations following trauma (Kushner, Riggs, Foax, & Miller, 1993). Lower coping self-efficacy predicts PTSD and mediates the effect of trauma on PTSD symptomology (Benight & Bandura, 2004; Cieslak, Benight, & Lehman, 2009).
- The Sexual Assault Coping Self-Efficacy Scale was adapted from items from the Modified Domestic Violence Coping Self-Efficacy Measure (Benight, Harding-Taylor, Midbure, & Durham, 2004) to reflect coping self-efficacy following sexual assault.
- The original measure has excellent internal consistency and convergent validity with positive coping measures.

Current Study

- Test the structural validity of the Sexual Assault Coping Self-Efficacy measure.
- Provide information on the effectiveness of the Sexual Assault Coping Self-Efficacy measure for measuring CSE in people who have experienced sexual assault.
- Provide information that will allow for improvement and continued evaluation of KCSARC’s legal advocacy program.

Participants and Procedures

Participants
- Data were collected as part of an ongoing program evaluation of KCSARC clients who requested a legal advocate to assist them through legal prosecution.
- Time 1 had the most participants (N = 91), followed by time 2 (N = 51) and time 3 (N = 16).
- All included participants were females over the age of 18.
- Predominantly Caucasian and in the range of very low income or low income.
- Majority had some high school and some college or technical training.

Measures
- Participants were administered up to three survey packets total. Surveys were administered once per fiscal quarter (i.e., approximately three months apart).
- Data were collected by KCSARC either via paper surveys at the KCSARC main office or KCSARC clients who requested a legal advocate to assist them through legal prosecution.
- Data were first analyzed via exploratory factor analysis and then confirmatory factor analysis to evaluate model fit. Internal consistency and test-retest reliability were analyzed using SPSS.
- All items were significantly regressed upon the latent variable Coping Self-Efficacy.
- Bartlett’s Test of Sphericity: χ²(171) = 2646.696, p < .001
- Eigenvalues greater than one = 2
- Scree plot suggested one factor
- In the component matrix, only one item loaded onto the second factor but also significantly cross loaded onto the first factor
- Proceeded testing one-factor model of SACSEM

Results & Discussion

Analyses:
- Internal Consistency:
  - Internal Consistency at Time 1 is .965
  - Internal Consistency at Time 2 is .964
  - Internal consistency at Time 3 is .975

CFA Analyses:
- Made three modifications
- Final analyses: χ²(148) = 368.804, CFI = .915, RMSEA = .097
- All items were significantly regressed upon the latent variable

Conclusions:
- Results supported a one-factor, 19-item measure
- Good structural validity; excellent internal consistency
- Ongoing program evaluation and way to evaluate benefit of program

Limitations:
- Primarily Caucasian and younger clients; only analyzed female data
- Sexual and gender identity not asked (LGBTQ+ individuals experience higher rates of violence; Langenderfer-Magruder, Walls, Kattari, Whitfield, & Ramos, 2016)
- Measure was originally not available for non-English speakers or those who are visually impaired
- Small sample size, participants excluded because of age and gender criteria, and missing data (attrition)

Future Research:
- Translate measure in different languages; have text-speak option for the measure
- Future research: Compare psychometrics for different groups of women (invariance testing)
- Investigate factors that reduce secondary victimization throughout the legal process.

References