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, Foa, & Miller, 1993). Lower coping self-efficacy predicts PTSD and mediates the effect of trauma on PTSD symptomology (Benight & Bandura, 2004; Cieslak, Benight, & Lehman, 2008).
• The Sexual Assault Coping Self-Efficacy Scale was adapted from items from the Modified Domestic Violence Coping Self-Efficacy Measure (Benight, Harding-Taylor, Midbøe, & Durham, 2004) to reflect coping self-efficacy following sexual assault.
• The original measure has excellent internal consistency and convergent validity with positive coping measures.
• Measures used:
  - Sexual and gender identity not asked (LGBTQ+ individuals experience higher rates of violence; Langenderfer-Magruder, Walls, Katz, Whitfield, & Ramos, 2016)
  - Measure was originally not available for non-English speakers or those who are visually impaired

Participants and Procedures

Participants

• Data were collected as part of an ongoing program evaluation of KCSARC's legal advocacy program.
• Data were collected by KCSARC clients who requested a legal advocate to assist them through legal prosecution.
• Data were collected as part of an ongoing program evaluation of KCSARC (Gibbs, Agatonovic, & Bikos, 2020; Benight et al., 2004); Measures capability to manage problems after sexual assault (S-point Likert scale ranging from 1 [completely incapable] to 5 [completely capable]).
• Sample Item: Dealing with feelings of shame concerning the assault

Measures

• Participants were administered up to three survey packets total. Surveys were administered once per fiscal quarter (i.e., approximately every three months apart).
• Data were collected by KCSARC via paper surveys at the KCSARC main office or online surveys via SurveyMonkey. Data were de-identified and then sent to the researchers.
• Measures used:
  - Sexual Assault Coping Self-Efficacy (Gibbs, Agatonovic, & Bikos, 2020; Benight et al., 2004); Measures capability to manage problems after sexual assault (5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 [completely incapable] to 5 [completely capable]).
  - Sample Item: Dealing with feelings of shame concerning the assault

Analysis

• Longitudinal program evaluation since 2013
• Multiple imputation (5 sets) was used to minimize missing data
• 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.