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.

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 the ongoing program evaluation of KCSARC's legal advocacy program.
- 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.

Data Collection
- Data were collected online surveys via SurveyMonkey. Data were de-identified and then sent to the researchers once per fiscal quarter (i.e., approximately three months apart).
- Multiple imputation (with 5 sets) was used to minimize missing data.
- Item analysis was conducted for each language and visual impairments.

Measures
- Modified Domestic Violence Coping Self-Efficacy Measure (Benight, Harding-Taylor, Midbøe, & Durham, 2004) to reflect coping self-efficacy following sexual assault.
- 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.
- All items were significantly regressed upon the latent variable.

Analysis

- Conclusive t-test suggested one factor
- In the component matrix, only one item loaded onto the second factor but also significantly cross loaded onto the first factor
- Proceded 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: x² (148) = 368.804, CFI = .915, RMSEA = .097

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, Katz, Whitfield, & Ranos, 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-to-speak option for the measure
- Modify data collection to evaluate and compare marginalized communities (i.e., LGBTQ+ and PoC)
- Compare psychometrics for different groups of women (invariance testing)
- Investigate factors that reduce secondary victimization throughout the legal process

References