



UNC CFAR Social and Behavioral Science Research Core SABI Database

INSTRUMENT TITLE: Attitudes toward women with HIV/AIDS scale - ATWAS

SOURCE ARTICLE: O'Hea, E. L., Sytsma, S. E., Copeland, A., Brantley, P. J. (2001). The attitudes toward women with HIV/AIDS scale (ATWAS): Development and validation. *AIDS Education and Prevention*, 13(2): 120-130.

RESPONSE OPTIONS: 1-5 (5-point Likert-style rating system, with lower scores suggesting more negative attitudes towards women with HIV/AIDS and higher scores indicating more positive attitudes toward women with HIV/AIDS)

SURVEY ITEMS:

Factor 1(Child Care)

1. Women who transmit HIV to their unborn baby should have their baby taken away.
2. Women with HIV/AIDS are not in control of their own lives, therefore they are unfit to be in charge of anyone else.
3. Women with HIV/AIDS are unfit mothers.
4. I think women who give birth to babies who are HIV+ should be prosecuted for child abuse.
5. Women with HIV/AIDS should not be allowed to make decisions about caring for their children.
6. If a woman with HIV/AIDS gives birth to an HIV- child, she should be able to raise that child.
7. Women with HIV/AIDS should be allowed to have children.
8. Young children should be removed from the home if their mother has HIV/AIDS.
9. Pregnant women with HIV/AIDS should be forced to have an abortion.

TERMS OF USE:

Individuals may use this information for research or educational purposes only and may not use this information for commercial purposes. When using this instrument, please cite:

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10. Women with HIV/AIDS are failures because they cannot live up to the traditional roles of the woman as mother and caregiver.
11. Women with HIV/AIDS should be sterilized (or have their tubes tied) so they cannot have children.

Factor 2 (Myths/Negative Stereotypes)

12. Most women with HIV/AIDS are injection drug users.
13. Most women with HIV/AIDS are prostitutes or sex workers.
14. Most women with HIV/AIDS sell their bodies for drugs.
15. Most women with HIV/AIDS have been infected by their heterosexual partner who is an injection drug user.
16. Most women with HIV/AIDS are lesbians.
17. Most women with HIV/AIDS have slept around a lot.

Factor 3 (Reproduction/Contraception Issues)

18. Pregnant women with HIV/AIDS should be forced to have their baby tested for HIV.
19. Pregnant women with HIV/AIDS should be forced to take medication (AZT) to reduce the chance that their babies will have HIV.
20. I think women with HIV/AIDS should be allowed to breast-feed their baby, even if it puts the baby at risk of getting HIV.
21. Women with HIV/AIDS should volunteer to have their baby tested for HIV.

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22. A woman owes it to her husband to have unprotected sex with him even if he has HIV/AIDS.
23. It is OK for a man with HIV/AIDS to refuse to wear a condom if he pays the woman's bills.

Factor 4 (Sympathy/Transmission Route)

24. I feel more sympathetic toward women who get HIV/AIDS from blood transfusions than those who get it from injection drug use.
25. I feel more sympathetic toward women who get HIV/AIDS from blood transfusions than those who get it from sexual intercourse.
26. I feel more sympathetic toward women who get HIV/AIDS from being raped than through being sexually promiscuous.
27. I have little sympathy for women who get HIV/AIDS from sexual promiscuity (sleeping around).

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