



UNC CFAR Social and Behavioral Science Research Core SABI Database

INSTRUMENT TITLE: *Attitudes about Safer Sex (subset of Sexual Risks Scale)*

SOURCE ARTICLE: Dehart, D.D., & Birkimer, J.C. (1997). Trying to practice safer sex: Development of the sexual risks scale. *The Journal of Sex Research*, 34(1), 11-25.

RESPONSE OPTIONS: Five-point Likert scale ranging from *Strongly Disagree* (1) to *Strongly Agree* (5).

SURVEY ITEMS: The full Sexual Risks Scale is included below, with the “Attitudes about Safer Sex” subset **bolded**.

1. If my partner wanted me to have unprotected sex, I would probably “give in.”
2. **The proper use of a condom could enhance sexual pleasure.**
3. I may have had sex with someone who was at risk for HIV/AIDS.
4. If I were going to have sex, I would take precautions to reduce my risk of HIV/AIDS.
5. **Condoms ruin the natural sex act.**
6. When I think that one of my friends might have sex on a date, I ask them if they have a condom.
7. I am at risk for HIV/AIDS.
8. I would try to use a condom when I had sex.
9. **Condoms interfere with romance.**
10. My friends talk a lot about “safer” sex.
11. If my partner wanted me to participate in “risky” sex and I said that we needed to be safer, we would still probably end up having “unsafe” sex.
12. **Generally, I am in favor of using condoms.**
13. I would avoid using condoms if at all possible.
14. If a friend knew that I might have sex on a date, he/she would ask me if I were carrying a condom.
15. There is a possibility that I have HIV/AIDS.
16. If I had a date, I would probably not drink alcohol or use drugs.
17. **“Safer” sex reduces the mental pleasure of sex.**
18. If I thought that one of my friends had sex on a date, I would ask them if they used a condom.

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19. **The idea of using a condom doesn't appeal to me.**
20. "Safer" sex is a habit for me.
21. If a friend knew that I had sex on a date, he/she wouldn't care if I had used a condom or not.
22. If my partner wanted me to participate in "risky" sex and I suggested a lower-risk alternative, we would have the "safer" sex instead.
23. **The sensory aspects (smell, touch, etc.) of condoms make them unpleasant.**
24. I intend to follow "safer sex" guidelines within the next year.
25. **With condoms, you can't really "give yourself over" to your partner.**
26. I am determined to practice "safer" sex.
27. If my partner wanted me to have unprotected sex and I made some excuse to use a condom, we would still end up having unprotected sex.
28. If I had sex and I told my friends that I did not use condoms, they would be angry or disappointed.
29. **I think "safer" sex would get boring fast.**
30. My sexual experiences do not put me at risk for HIV/AIDS.
31. **Condoms are irritating.**
32. My friends and I encourage each other before dates to practice "safer" sex.
33. When I socialize, I usually drink alcohol or use drugs.
34. If I were going to have sex in the next year, I would use condoms.
35. If a sexual partner didn't want to use condoms, we would have sex without using condoms.
36. **People can get the same pleasure from "safer" sex as from unprotected sex.**
37. **Using condoms interrupts sex play.**
38. **It is a hassle to use condoms.**

NOTES ON SCORING:

Reverse score off-numbered items and item number 38.

Attitudes toward safer sex: 2, 5, 9, 12, 17, 19, 23, 25, 29, 31, 36, 37, 38

Peer norms toward safer sex: 6, 10, 14, 18, 21, 28, 32

Perceived susceptibility to HIV: 3, 7, 15, 30

Substance use: 16, 33

Intention to practice safer sex: 4, 8, 13, 20, 24, 26, 34

Expectation to practice safer sex: 1, 11, 22, 27, 35

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