



UNC CFAR Social and Behavioral Science Research Core Database

INSTRUMENT TITLE: Safer and Stronger Program (SSP) – Abuse Items

SOURCE ARTICLE: Curry, M.A., Renker, P., Hughes, R., Robinson-Whelen, S., Oswald, M., Swank, P., & Powers, L. (2009). Development of Measures of Abuse Among Women With Disabilities and the Characteristics of Their Perpetrators. *Violence Against Women*. 15(9): 1001-1025

POPULATION: heterosexual, women, African American

RESPONSE OPTIONS: Yes/No

SCORING: Items 8-11 are considered a single variable as well as items 13-17, so an endorsement of any of the collapsed items is coded as “yes” for that variable.

SURVEY ITEMS: The instrument has already been formatted by the author, please see attached

RELIABILITY INFORMATION: Cronbach’s $\alpha = 0.787$

VALIDITY INFORMATION: Content and Construct Validity and Factor Structure are reported

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:

Curry, M.A., Renker, P., Hughes, R., Robinson-Whelen, S., Oswald, M., Swank, P., & Powers, L. (2009). Development of Measures of Abuse Among Women With Disabilities and the Characteristics of Their Perpetrators. *Violence Against Women*. 15(9): 1001-1025

When presenting results using any survey information you obtained from the SABI, please acknowledge the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), an NIH funded program P30 AI50410.

Table 1
Abuse Questions Used in Safer and Stronger Program

1. In the last year, has anyone you know made you feel unsafe?
 Yes No
 2. In the last year, has anyone you know
 Yelled at you over and over again?
 Hurt your feelings on purpose?
 Yes No
 3. In the last year, has anyone you know refused or forgotten to help you with an important personal need such as
 Toileting or going to the bathroom
 Bathing
 Helping you move
 Getting dressed
 Getting food or water
 Yes No
 4. In the last year, has anyone you know broken or kept you from using important things such as a
 Phone
 Wheelchair
 Cane
 Walker
 Respirator
 Communication device
 Service animal
 Other assistive devices
 Yes No
 5. In the last year, has anyone you know
 Kept you from taking your medication?
 Given you too much or too little medication?
 Yes No
 6. In the last year, has anyone you know
 Stolen your money, important items, or equipment?
 Signed your checks to take money from you?
 Used your credit or debit card without your OK?
 Yes No
- In the last year, has anyone you know
7. Made you afraid they would hit, kick, slap, or shove you?
 Yes No
 8. Actually hit, kicked, slapped, or shoved you?
 Yes No
 9. Handled you roughly?
 Yes No
 10. Held or tied you down or made you stay someplace when you didn't want to?
 Yes No
 11. Physically hurt you in any way?
 Yes No
-

(continued)

Table 1 (continued)

In the last year, has anyone you know

12. Made you afraid they were going to touch you in a sexual way that you did not want?
 Yes No

13. Actually touched you in a sexual way that you did not want?
 Yes No

In the last year, has anyone you know taken advantage of you in sexual ways you did not want?
 Check all that apply.

14. Made you look at or took sexual pictures of you
 Yes No

15. Been naked in front of you or made you be naked
 Yes No

16. Asked about your sex life
 Yes No

17. Made you feel bad about your body
 Yes No

reviewed by women with disabilities and deaf women for face validity. Although these experts thought all questions were relevant, they had several recommendations for making the questions more explicit and inclusive of the types of abuse experienced by women with disabilities. They recommended that more examples of abusive behaviors be provided for some of the questions. Consequently, the question that asked if equipment had been broken or withheld was expanded to include the examples of phones, walkers, service animals, respirators, and other assistive devices. Another recommendation was to create separate questions that asked about threats of physical and sexual abuse because of the powerful effect these threats have for women with disabilities. They also recommended that the item measuring being handled roughly, restrained, or physically hurt in anyway be separated into distinct questions rather than being included in one long list of examples of physical abuse. A similar recommendation was made to add separate questions about different types of sexual abuse, such as being forced to be naked in front of someone.

Next, these recommendations were incorporated into a working draft of new questions, which were reviewed for accessibility for women with cognitive disabilities by a language specialist. Some questions had to be extensively reworked to increase understanding. During this phase, it was decided that only one question in its entirety should appear on the computer screen at any time. This meant that the question and all the examples had to fit on the screen, an issue for some questions as the font had to be large enough for women with visual disabilities. This required further refinement of some questions. A female narrator introduced the questions with the following: "As you answer these questions please keep in mind that abusers may be paid or unpaid providers, family, friends, or other people in your life. Abusers may be male or female."