Attitudes About HIV/AIDS for Hispanic College Students

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The HIV/AIDS attitudes scale for Hispanics was adapted from the attitudes survey used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Dawson, 1990) and the Nurse’s Attitudes about AIDS Scale (Preston, Young, Koch, & Forti, 1995).

Description
The scale includes 26 items to measure attitudes about HIV and people who may be infected, sexual behaviors and safer sexual practices, and discussion and learning about AIDS.

Response Mode and Timing
Participants respond according to how they feel about each item using a 5-point Likert scale from Strongly Agree (1) to Strongly Disagree (5).

Scoring
A mean score is calculated for the scale, with 1 representing negative attitudes to 5 representing positive attitudes. The following items are reverse scored: 1, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 20, 21, 23, 25, and 26.

Reliability
Reliability analysis was conducted on the scale using a Cronbach’s alpha measure of the internal consistency. As part of a study with Hispanic and non-Hispanic college students (Luquis, 1991), the reliability analysis resulted in an alpha of .85 for the entire scale.

Validity
The initial version of the scale was subject to focus groups analysis with Hispanic college students to determine culturally relevant issues to be included. The revised instrument was pilot-tested with Hispanic and non-Hispanic students for feedback regarding content, format, and vocabulary. The English version of the instrument was translated into Spanish and back-translated into English by two separate bilingual professionals to ensure the validity of the Spanish version of the scale.

References


Exhibit

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Attitudes About HIV/AIDS

The following statements reflect attitudes about HIV and AIDS. Circle the number that best describes your feeling about each statement.

Scale: 1 = Strongly Agree, 2 = Agree, 3 = Uncertain, 4 = Disagree, 5 = Strongly Disagree

1. I believe I have enough information about HIV/AIDS to protect myself.
2. I believe women should not have sexual intercourse before marriage.
3. Activities that spread HIV/AIDS, such as some forms of sexual behaviors, should be illegal.
4. I feel uncomfortable when coming in contact with gay men because of the risk that they may have HIV/AIDS.
5. Civil rights laws should be enacted/enforced to protect people with HIV/AIDS from job and housing discrimination.

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6. Male homosexuality is obscene and vulgar.
7. I believe men should not have sexual intercourse before marriage.
8. HIV test results should be confidential to avoid discrimination against people with positive results.
9. I feel that more time should be spent teaching students about HIV/AIDS in my college courses.
10. People should not blame the homosexual community for the spread of HIV/AIDS in the U.S.
11. AIDS is a punishment for immoral behavior.
12. I feel secure that I have reduced all risk of personally contracting HIV.
13. It would not bother me to attend class with a person with HIV/AIDS.
14. Anyone who has had more than one sexual partner is promiscuous.
15. I could comfortably discuss HIV/AIDS with a friend.
16. I would not avoid a friend if she/he had HIV/AIDS.
17. If I discovered that my roommate had HIV/AIDS, I would move out.
18. I do not believe in using condoms.
19. I feel that more time should be spent teaching students about HIV/AIDS in my college courses.
20. People should not blame the homosexual community for the spread of HIV/AIDS in the U.S.
21. AIDS is a punishment for immoral behavior.
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