Handbook of Sexuality-Related Measures

Terri D. Fisher, Clive M. Davis, William L. Yarber, Sandra L. Davis

Sexually Assertive Behavior Scale

Publication details
https://www.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9781315881089.ch152
Peter B. Anderson, Maria Newton
Published online on: 12 Aug 2010

How to cite:- Peter B. Anderson, Maria Newton. 12 Aug 2010, Sexually Assertive Behavior Scale from: Handbook of Sexuality-Related Measures Routledge
Accessed on: 30 Aug 2023
https://www.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9781315881089.ch152

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR DOCUMENT

Full terms and conditions of use: https://www.routledgehandbooks.com/legal-notices/terms

This Document PDF may be used for research, teaching and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproductions, re-distribution, re-selling, loan or sub-licensing, systematic supply or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden.

The publisher does not give any warranty express or implied or make any representation that the contents will be complete or accurate or up to date. The publisher shall not be liable for an loss, actions, claims, proceedings, demand or costs or damages whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with or arising out of the use of this material.
47. a) Familiarity, like absence, makes the heart grow fonder.
    b) Familiarity breeds contempt.
48. a) Reason is the chief means by which human beings make great discoveries.
    b) Reason has to be continually disciplined and corrected by reality and hard facts.
49. a) The changeableness of human feelings is a weakness in human beings.
    b) The changeableness of human feelings makes life more interesting.
50. a) There are a great many things in the world which are good for human beings and which satisfy them in different ways. This makes the world an exciting place and enriches the lives of human beings.
    b) There are a great many things which attract human beings. Some of them are proper, but many are bad for human beings, and some are degrading.
51. a) Psychology studies sexual behavior with the same scientific methods used to study other forms of experience and behavior.
    b) Psychology can only study the surface of sex, not its essence.
52. a) The Kinsey Reports are an example of poor science.
    b) The Kinsey Reports reduced irrational guilt by describing how common many sexual behaviors were.
53. a) Children should be seen and not heard.
    b) Children are entirely delightful.
54. a) For a human being to live a good life he must act like a good man, i.e., observe the rules of morality.
    b) For a human being to live a good life he must satisfy both himself and others.
55. a) Mystical experiences may be sources of insight into the nature of reality.
    b) So-called mystical experiences have most often been a source of delusion.
56. a) Man must always leave himself open to his own feelings—alien as they may sometimes seem.
    b) If sanity is to be preserved, man must guard himself against the intrusion of feelings which are alien to his nature.
57. a) There is no surer road to insanity than surrender to the feelings, particularly those which are alien to the self.
    b) There is a unique avenue to reality through the feelings, even when they seem alien.
58. a) Life sometimes smells bad.
    b) Life sometimes leaves a bad taste in the mouth.
59. a) The mind is like a lamp which illuminates whatever it shines on.
    b) The mind is like a mirror which reflects whatever strikes it.
60. a) Things are beautiful or ugly independent of what human beings think.
    b) Beauty and ugliness are in the eye of the beholder.

Sexually Assertive Behavior Scale

Peter B. Anderson, Walden University
Maria Newton, University of Utah

The purpose of the Sexually Assertive Behavior Scale (SABS) is to assess women’s behaviors and motives relative to initiating sexual contact with men.

Description

The SABS is a 19-item scale composed of six factors—Sexual Arousal, Hidden Motives, Verbal Pressure, Retaliation or Gain, Physical Force, and Exploitation. Factor 1 (Sexual Arousal) relates to mutually consenting sexual contact and attempts to arouse a partner. Factor 2 (Hidden Motives) items relate to a woman initiating a sexual relationship with a man other than her partner to make her partner jealous, to hurt him, or to terminate their relationship. Factor 3 (Verbal Pressure) items relate to verbally persuasive tactics. Factor 4 (Retaliation or Gain)
items relate to initiating sexual contact with a partner out of anger, to retaliate, or to gain favor. Factor 5 (Physical Force) items specify the threat and use of physical force. Factor 6 (Exploitation) items relate to initiating sexual contact while the partner is vulnerable.

The SABS was developed to assess a wide range of behaviors and motives relative to women initiating sexual contact. Thirteen of the items in the SABS were adapted from the Sexual Experiences Survey (SES) developed by Koss and Oros (1982). The SES is a self-report instrument using dichotomous (yes-no) responses to 13 questions that reflect various degrees of male sexual aggression and female victimization. For example, women responding to the SES were asked, “Have you had sexual intercourse when you didn’t want to because a man used his position of authority (boss, teacher, camp counselor, supervisor) to make you?” This work was chosen for adaptation because it was previously tested and shown to have good internal consistency reliability (Cronbach’s alpha = .74 for women, .89 for men), test-retest reliability of .93, and external validity established through face-to-face interview (Pearson r = .61, p < .001) (Koss & Gidycz, 1985).

In addition to the 13 items adapted from the SES for inclusion in the SABS, 6 more items were generated from a review of the literature on male sexual aggression and item suggestions by a panel of experts in sexual aggression, for example “How many times have you attempted to have sexual contact with a man by taking advantage of a compromising position he was in (being where he did not belong or breaking some rule)?” or “How many times have you attempted to have sexual contact with a man to get even with or hurt another man?” All items were worded to conform to the interviewing style used by Kinsey, Pomeroy, and Martin (1948), who assumed all respondents had engaged in each behavior mentioned and allowed for specific numerical responses (i.e., “How many times have you . . .?” rather than “Have you ever . . .?”). Also, we attempted to arrange the order of items in the SABS to ask what we judged to be the more comfortable questions first.

**Response Mode and Timing**

The SABS contains written instructions directing the respondents to write in the number of times they have initiated sexual contact as described in each question. Completion of the 19-item questionnaire typically takes approximately 5 minutes.

**Scoring**

Actual frequency counts are elicited for each question. To date, we have compiled and transformed the responses into dichotomous scores of 0 for those who reported no experience and 1 for those who reported engaging in the behavior or motive one or more times. One may also choose to create a response distribution per item and then subdivide the distribution into quartiles. Items contained in each subscale are Sexual Arousal (Items 1–5), Hidden Motives (Items 9–11), Verbal Pressure (Items 6–8), Retaliation or Gain (Items 12–14), Physical Force (Items 18–19), and Exploitation (Items 15–17).

**Reliability**

Anderson and Newton (1997) found that the Hidden Motives subscale demonstrated satisfactory reliability (alpha coefficient .75). Internal consistency for the Sexual Arousal, Retaliation or Gain, and Verbal Pressure subscales was marginally acceptable (alphas = .64, .56, and .61, respectively). The Exploitation subscale (alpha = .43) yielded low reliability and should be interpreted with caution. The Physical Force subscale contained only two items (alpha = .58).

**Validity**

This instrument was reviewed for face and content validity, pretested, pilot tested, and reviewed twice by a panel of experts to establish consensual validation (Anderson, 1990). Construct validity, in relation to factor structure, was supported by factor analyses (Anderson & Newton, 1997).

**Updates**

The SABS has been modified for use by the principal authors and others since it was first introduced (see Anderson, Kontos, & Struckman-Johnson, 2008; Anderson, Kontos, Tanigoshi, & Struckman-Johnson, 2005). Subsequent versions have expanded the number of questions asked and shown similar reliability and validity scores. The original SABS remains the most parsimonious scale designed to assess women’s sexual aggression toward men.

**References**


Exhibit

Sexually Assertive Behavior Scale

This portion of the questionnaire is an attempt to discover some of the behavior that you employ in your sexual activities. Sexual contact is defined as fondling, kissing, petting, or intercourse. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions. Please answer as honestly as you can.

1. How many times have you had sexual contact (fondling, kissing, petting, or intercourse) with a man when you both wanted to?
2. How many times have you initiated sexual contact (fondling, kissing, petting, or intercourse) with a man?
3. In initiating sexual contact with a man, how many times have you overestimated the level of sexual activity he desired to have with you?
4. How many times have you attempted to have sexual contact with a man because you were so sexually aroused you did not want to stop?
5. How many times have you attempted to have sexual contact with a man by getting him sexually aroused?
6. How many times have you attempted to have sexual contact (fondling, kissing, petting, or intercourse) with a man by threatening to end your relationship?
7. How many times have you attempted to have sexual contact with a man by saying things that you didn't mean?
8. How many times have you attempted to have sexual contact with a man by pressuring him with verbal arguments?
9. How many times have you attempted to have sexual contact with a man in order to make another man jealous?
10. How many times have you attempted to have sexual contact with a man in order to get even with or hurt another man?
11. How many times have you attempted to have sexual contact with a man in order to end a relationship with another man?
12. How many times have you attempted to have sexual contact with a man in a position of power or authority over you (boss, teacher, or supervisor) in order to better your situation or gain something?
13. How many times have you attempted to have sexual contact with a man because you were angry at him?
14. How many times have you attempted to have sexual contact with a man to retaliate for something he did to you?
15. How many times have you attempted to have sexual contact (fondling, kissing, petting, or intercourse) with a man to gain power or control over him?
16. How many times have you attempted to have sexual contact with a man while his judgment was impaired by drugs or alcohol?
17. How many times have you attempted to have sexual contact with a man by taking advantage of a compromising position he was in (being where he did not belong or breaking some rule)?
18. How many times have you attempted to have sexual contact with a man by threatening to use some degree of physical force (holding him down, hitting him, etc.)?
19. How many times have you attempted to have sexual contact with a man by using some degree of physical force?