C5-6: Instrument Development/Testing the Marginality Index

Author List:
Presenting Author: Anne F. Koci
Additional Author:

Presenting Author: Anne F. Koci

Address: 6700 Fannin
Houston, Texas 77030
United States
Ph: 713-794-2394
Fax: 713-794-2103
Email: akoci@twu.edu
Institution: Texas Woman's University

Presentation Preference: Late Breaker poster submission

Abstract Categories:
Research Interest Groups (RIGs): Psychometrics/Instrumentation
Thematic Areas: Women's Health

Abstract:
Introduction: Women with a history of abuse demonstrate more adverse health outcomes than women without such a history of abuse. A possible means by which abuse may begin and continue within the lives of women is marginality. Assessing the marginality-abuse hypothesis requires a reliable and valid tool which practitioners may utilize in the clinical setting to identify marginalized women. Purpose: To assess the psychometric characteristics of the Marginality Index.

Method(s): Sample: Women, ages 18 and older that could read and understand English (n=460), were recruited from the community and by friend referral using the snowball strategy. Women were invited to complete an anonymous internet survey using PsychData which included the 70-item self-report Marginality Index. Of the sample, 282 women completed questions for the full instrument and were included in the data analysis. Descriptive statistics, internal consistency reliability, and exploratory factor analysis were computed.

Results: Ethnicity: 86% White, 14% Minority (8% Black, 3% Asian, 2% Hispanic, and 2% other), 78% employed, 66% married. The Marginality Index revealed a strong internal consistency reliability of .96 Cronbach alpha which was consistent with previous pilot data; Preliminary factor analysis demonstrated 15 factors using varimax rotation with kaiser normalization and eigenvalues of greater than 1.

Discussion & Conclusions: In this sample, the Marginality Index (MI), a 70-item instrument, demonstrated .96 internal consistency reliability and correlated with health outcomes in the direction consistent with the theoretical framework of the study. This information will be used to
further distill the instrument into a reliable, feasible instrument of 10-20 items which measure marginality. The purpose of this tool is to improve the clinician’s ability to identify marginalized women in the office setting in order to help these women obtain needed resources. The potential for this tool lies in understanding the link between marginalization of females within their social environment and abuse. With this understanding, practitioners may aid in improving the physical and mental health of women and girls.

**Abstract History:**
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

**Financial Disclosure:**
No, I (or a member of my immediate family) have not received something of value* from or own stock (or stock options) in a commercial company or institution related directly or indirectly to the subject of my presentation.

**FDA Disclosure:**
I will not be describing any pharmaceutical and/or medical device.

**Non-Exclusive License:**

Submitted by:
akoci@twu.edu