# Reentry Populations: Examining Group Differences in Substance Abuse and Sexual Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviors

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# **Scale Descriptions**

### Sexual Self-Efficacy Scale ( $\alpha$ = .905)

The Sexual Self-Efficacy Scale contains the following items:

In your relationship with your <u>PRIMARY (MAIN) partner</u>, how confident are you that you could:

- Refuse to have sex with your partner because you weren't in the mood?
- Ask your partner to wait while you got a condom or dental dam?
- Tell your partner how to treat you sexually?
- Refuse to engage in sexual practices you didn't like?
- Ask your partner to use a condom or dental dam?
- Refuse to have sex because your partner did not want to use a condom or dental dam?

This scale was computed by subtracting 1 from the non-missing values of related variables in order to appropriately set the scale according to the lowest response option of "not at all," then summing the results. For example, if a respondent reported "not at all" to each item, their scale score is a zero. This measure was only calculated when one or fewer values were missing.

#### **HIV/AIDS Knowledge Scale**

The HIV/AIDS Knowledge Scale includes the following items:

- Only people who look sick can spread the HIV/AIDS virus.
- Only people who have sexual intercourse with gay (homosexual) people get HIV/AIDS.
- Birth control pills protect women from getting the HIV/AIDS virus.
- There are drugs available to treat HIV which can lengthen the life of a person infected with the virus.
- There is no cure for AIDS.

• Young people under age 18 need their parents' permission to get an HIV test.

Response options include: True, False, and Don't Know. Scale construction is the percentage correct out of the six items used to calculate the score for each participant, among participants with at least one valid response. Change for this measure represents the baseline-to-exit change in average percentage of correctly identified statements.

#### Abuse Scale ( $\alpha = .742$ )

The Abuse Scale contains the following items:

In the past <u>3 months</u>, how often has anyone with whom you had an intimate relation with, sexual or not...

- Emotionally abused you (swore at you, called you negative names, kept you from seeing family or friends)?
- Physically abused you (slapped, beat, kicked, or choked you; threatened you with a weapon knife, gun)?
- Sexually abused you (forced you to have sex, physically hurt the sexual parts of your body)?
- Forced you to use drugs or alcohol?

Response options include: Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Often and Very often. Participant must have valid answers to all of the abuse items to receive a scale score. The scale score is the average score across the 4 items. For example, if a respondent reported "Never" to all four items, the scale score is one. This measure was only calculated when all items had valid responses.

## **References:**

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