

## **Cognitive Testing of the CASR-SF for Men**

The purpose of this project was to examine the applicability and fit of the Composite Abuse Scale Revised-Short Form (CAS<sub>R</sub>-SF) by conducting cognitive testing with a diverse sample of men who have experienced intimate partner violence (IPV). Our primary aim was to examine whether the current 15 items are acceptable to and resonate with men based on their experiences of IPV. Based on findings from recent work examining and assessing the CAS<sub>R</sub>-SF, we included and tested an additional item focused on sexual humiliation. We also added two introductory questions related to fear.

Cognitive interviewing (or cognitive testing) is a qualitative method used to determine whether a survey instrument captures its intended meaning, and to identify problematic questions that could lead to measurement error. The method is particularly valuable in pretesting questions that are complex or sensitive and can contribute to the development of more effective and comprehensive self-report measurement tools. Participants took part in cognitive testing focus groups and/or one-on-one interviews.

To be eligible for the study, individuals were required to self-identify as men, be able to read and speak English, be over the age of 19, live in New Brunswick, and have experienced IPV. In all, we collected data from 18 men (mean age 45); 13 took part in focus groups and five completed one-on-one telephone interviews.

### **Cognitive Testing Results**

The collective findings from the focus group and individual interview meetings provide evidence of the applicability and fit of the CAS<sub>R</sub>-SF for men, in that the items resonated with men based on their experiences of IPV. No items were identified as being irrelevant and no significant gaps were noted. Overall, findings suggest that the CAS<sub>R</sub>-SF adequately captures the breadth of men's experiences of IPV.

Participants were asked to comment on two questions related to fear, probing whether they are currently, or have ever been afraid of any partner. Responses evidenced that men did relate to feeling afraid in the context of IPV, although they defined fear in various ways.

### **Implications**

Given the collective evidence, we recommended no changes to the CAS<sub>R</sub>-SF items as they are applicable and fit with men's experiences of IPV. The next logical step is to collect primary data to further evaluate the performance of the CAS<sub>R</sub>-SF in a diverse sample of Canadian adults who have experienced IPV. We recommend a sample size large enough to permit replication of the original analyses conducted with women (including both factor analysis and cluster analyses). We suggest that this work not be restricted to the dominant gender groups (men, women) rather be more gender inclusive. This approach will allow for examination and analysis of sex and gender patterns of IPV, including any differences in the self-reported frequency of experiencing CAS<sub>R</sub>-SF items by sex and gender. Further, such a study will allow for investigation as to the best scoring approaches to determine patterns of IPV.