

The Applicability and Fit of the Composite Abuse Scale Revised – Short Form (CAS_R-SF) for Men

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Outline

- Composite Abuse Scale (CAS)
- CAS Revised – Short Form (CAS_R-SF)
- **Applicability and Fit for Men**
 - Literature Review
 - Expert Ratings / Consultation
 - Cognitive Testing

Measurement Evolution

- Tendency in population-based studies to privilege physical (sexual) violence
- A number of valid and reliable measures of IPV have now been developed; too long to be included in population-based surveys
- CAS is a 30-item preferred IPV measure considered a criterion standard for assessing women's IPV (Hegarty, 1999)
- Despite many strengths, challenges including length, response options, wording of some items have prompted continued refinement of the CAS

(Ford-Gilboe, Wahter, Varcoe, MacMillan, Scott-Storey, Mantler, Hegarty, & Perrin, 2016)

BMJ Open Development of a brief measure of intimate partner violence experiences: the Composite Abuse Scale (Revised)—Short Form (CAS_R-SF)

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: Approaches to measuring intimate partner violence (IPV) in populations often privilege physical violence, with poor assessment of other experiences. This has led to underestimating the scope and impact of IPV. The aim of this study was to develop a brief, reliable and valid self-report measure of IPV that adequately captures its complexity.

Design: Mixed-methods instrument development and psychometric testing to evolve a brief version of the Composite Abuse Scale (CAS) using secondary data analysis and expert feedback.

Setting: Data from 5 Canadian IPV studies; feedback from international IPV experts.

Participants: 31 international IPV experts including academic researchers, service providers and policy actors rated CAS items via an online survey. Pooled

Strengths and limitations of this study

- The Composite Abuse Scale (Revised)—Short Form (CAS_R-SF) is a comprehensive, valid and reliable brief self-report measure developed using a mixed-methods approach; it captures physical, sexual and psychological abuse and overall intimate partner violence, with a focus on severity and intensity of experiences.
- The CAS_R-SF retains the strengths of the longer, criterion standard 30-item CAS, and improves on it in a number of areas including brevity, respondent burden, and clarity of instructions, questions and response options.
- Items have been added to address critical gaps (ie, use of threats, financial abuse, choking) or updated (eg, use of new technologies for harass-

CAS_R-SF

Development Work:

Mixed Method study:

- Expert Ratings/Survey
- Item reduction and Scale Validation

Results:

- 15-item version of CAS
- 12 items from original CAS; 3 new items from experts and evolving literature

Limitations:

- Whether CAS_R-SF is robust in other samples, including with people of all genders, requires further testing

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CAS_R-SF: Applicability & Fit for Men

We set out to do this work because:

- Even though men experience IPV, little research has focused on their experiences
- Less attention has been paid to how men define/conceptualize violence
- Most measures used to capture men's IPV developed for use with women
- Problematic because the applicability and fit of such measures for capturing men's IPV is poorly understood
- Because of interest in the use of such a measure for population level surveys, it is important to understand its appropriateness for *all who experience IPV*

Literature Review: Men's IPV

Literature review to examine what is known about men's IPV:

- Men experience physical, sexual and psychological violence
- Overall, psychological abuse/violence appears to be the most common form of IPV experienced by men (Follingstad & Rogers, 2013)
- A range of factors account for variation in men's experiences of IPV including, sex and gender of partner
 - i.e., men in same sex relationships who are targeted by men, for example, may experience patterns of violence similar to those experienced by women in heterosexual relationships who are targeted by men

Expert Consultation Survey

23 IPV, gender and/or masculinities experts completed online survey to:

Examine each CAS_R-SF item and indicate whether the item is:

- Characteristic of the range of IPV experienced by men
- Gender biased in the wording
- Appropriate for diverse groups men and diverse contexts

Comment on the CAS_R-SF measure as a whole to:

- Identify gaps in the item pool
- Provide any other additional feedback/suggestions

Expert Consultation

Consulted individuals with expertise in gender, violence and measurement to:

Discuss the applicability and fit of the CAS_R-SF for men:

- Original developer of the CAS and member of the CAS_R-SF development research team; discussed experience in administering CAS with men

Discuss the CAS_R-SF as a measurement tool for IPV:

- Violence and gender expert who's research interest and work includes methodological challenges associated with measuring the nature and prevalence of violence, including IPV

Cognitive Testing of the CAS_R-SF

18 men who self-identified as targets of IPV engaged in cognitive testing interviews to assess:

- Clarity of introduction and instructions
- Pre questionnaire fear questions
- Whether items were not relevant, unclear, too similar, experiences missing
- Appropriateness and clarity of response options

Men who took part asked to:

- 1. Complete CAS_R-SF**
- 2. Assess applicability, fit, usability**
- 3. Provide additional comments**

Results

- The CAS_R-SF shows promise as a measure to capture men's experiences of IPV
- Evidence based on literature, experts and men suggest that men experience a broad range of IPV (i.e., physical, psychological, sexual) and coercive control
- An additional sexual humiliation item, based on concurrent work Status of Women Canada, PHAC, and our recommendations tested resonated with men

Results

- Men conceptualize fear in different ways i.e., emotional and physical safety, life
- Reinforce notion of variation among men and their experiences of IPV
 - Sex and gender of target and perpetrator must be considered and captured
- Both men and experts found the tool to be clear, applicable and understandable

Gender Matters: Testing the Composite Abuse Scale (revised) – Short Form (CAS_R-SF) with a Sample of Canadian Adults

Collect primary data with a community sample of 1100 Canadian adults who have experienced IPV to further evaluate the performance of the CAS_R-SF. The goal of this work is to:

- Examine and analyze sex and gender patterns of IPV (sex and gender of *target and partner* linked to CAS_R-SF important)
- Test additional item (Item 16; sexual humiliation)
- Explore how a range of individuals conceptualize the construct of 'fear' in context of IPV
- Develop a standardized scoring approach to allow for meaningful sex and gender based analysis

Gender Matters: Testing the CAS_R-SF with a Sample of Canadian Adults

Collect primary data with a community sample of 1100 Canadian adults who have experienced IPV to further evaluate the performance of the CAS_R-SF. This will allow us to:

- 507 participants have completed the survey to date
- Preliminary results suggest that there are important gender differences at the item level and with respect to the reasons for reporting fear of partner.
- Statistical analyses will replicate those used in the original study
- Patterns of IPV among people of different genders and in different types of partner relationships will be identified using cluster analysis

Questions?