



## CONTINUING EDUCATION SESSION

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SESSION	CE HOURS	DATE/TIME
CE7	1.0	Friday, November 4th 1:00pm-2:00pm
TITLE		
<i>Revising the Sexual Experiences Survey: Innovations in the Measurement of Sexual Victimization and Perpetration</i>		
AUTHORS		
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<b>AASECT - Core Knowledge Areas and Training:</b>		J; K; Q
<b>APA - Curriculum Content Criteria:</b>		1.3
<b>NCHEC - Areas of Responsibility:</b>		4.1.8; 4.1.9; 4.1.10; 4.5.1; 4.5.2; 4.5.3; 4.5.4
ABSTRACT		
<p>Symposium Summary: The Sexual Experiences Survey (SES) is the most widely used measure of sexual assault victimization and perpetration, and as such, it has helped to fundamentally shape our collective knowledge about the prevalence, risk factors, and outcomes of sexual assault. This symposium describes the collaborative process to revise the SES and highlights some of the changes that will be reflected in this newest version of the measure. The SES Collaborative Revision Team has been meeting for over a year to revise the SES to ensure that the new measure demonstrates greater inclusivity, improved clarity, and a broader range of victimization/perpetration experiences. The talks in this symposium will include a history of the SES as well as discussion of the (1) changes to the revised SES to ensure greater applicability for LGBTQIA+ respondents, (2) changes to descriptions and measurement of non-consent and coercion, and (3) new additions of cyber victimization and perpetration items. Presenters will also review the relevant literature that guided the group's decision-making.</p> <p>Abstract 1: The Sexual Experiences Survey: Evolving an Inclusive Revision Process            Mary P. Koss Background: The Sexual Experiences Survey (SES) was first released in 1980 and was revised in 1985 and again in 2007 (Koss &amp; Oros, 1980; Koss, Gidycz &amp; Wisniewski, 1987; Koss et al., 2007). The SES was designed to measure a spectrum of non-consensual sexual aggression perpetration and victimization. Rather than repeating the approaches of earlier surveys that used vague language so as not to offend or including words such as rape that have a legal interpretation average people don't understand, the SES introduced behaviorally-specific questions. That means creating an item that uses language that references directly observable behavior to establish that all components of a defined term were present in an incident. Because behavioral specificity reduces the room for interpretation, there is a closer connection than that seen with vague or jargon-filled items between what people disclose on a survey compared to what they confide in interview or write as narrative. Theoretical Perspective: Behavioral specificity cannot remain static. Legal or scientific definitions of the constructs may change. Knowledge grows on the behavioral ways that sex is imposed without freely given permission. Behaviors that are occurring in the real world contemporaneously must be included using language with currency. Research on the impact of wording or formatting changes must be accommodated. Finally, there must be a commitment to inclusion mandates revisiting practices that would not be acceptable today such as limiting by gender who perpetrates and who is victimized, equating anatomy with gender identity, and omitting</p>		



behavioral examples that reflect the realities of gender minorities and others. Significance to the Field: Beginning in 2021 a new team was assembled to update the 2007 SES. This presentation focuses on how the revision team was assembled and organized to achieve the changes outlined previously. Abstract 2: Ensuring the Applicability of the Sexual Experiences Survey for LGBTQIA+ Respondents Sasha N. Canan, Heather L. Littleton, Elise C. Lopez, and Zoë D. Peterson Background: The Sexual Experiences Survey is one of the most widely used measures of sexual assault prevalence. It has been updated several times since its creation in the 1980s (Koss & Gidycz, 1985; Koss, Gidycz, & Wisniewski, 1987; Koss & Oros, 1982), with its most recent update in 2007. As the field has advanced, the measure's author organized a large team of sexual violence researchers to update the scale once again. The measure's utility in the LGBTQIA+ community was one area prioritized in this update. Theoretical Perspective: Like the justification made in the 2007 update, "the scale has evidenced deficiencies and has become dated" (p. 357) since the measure's last overhaul. This is perhaps partly the reason researchers often modify the measure in their studies. This modifying practice leads to issues for metaanalyses and limits other cross-study comparisons, both of which limit the field's ability to understand sexual violence in smaller sub-communities, like LGBTQIA+ groups. Significance to the Field: The updates to definitions of sex acts and the addition of inclusive anatomical language were made to encompass the experiences of sexual and gender minority groups, including transgender individuals and sexual minority men. As such, widespread adoption of the SES 2022 has the potential to rapidly increase our understanding of sexual violence, including its prevalence, risk factors, and the impact of different types of sexual violence victimization. Additionally, the utilization of a single measure across studies will allow for the aggregation of findings, allowing for the study of sexual violence in vulnerable minority groups, as well as allow for direct comparisons of findings across studies. Abstract 3: Rethinking Consent and Coercion on the Sexual Experiences Survey Zoë D. Peterson, RaeAnn E. Anderson, Antonia Abbey, Zoe Baccam, Sasha Canan, Lisa Fedina, Heather L. McCauley, Lindsay M. Orchowski, Kevin M. Swartout, and Jacqueline W. White Background: The Sexual Experiences Survey (SES) is the most widely used measure of sexual victimization and perpetration. Because of that, the SES has had an important influence on how researchers think about concepts like non-consent and coercion. A new SES Collaborative Revision Team has been working over the past year to update the SES. An important aspect of the process has involved decisions about how non-consent and coercion will be described and measured in the SES. Theoretical Perspective: Early versions of the SES assessed for nonconsensual sex by asking about sex "when you didn't want to"; however, research suggests that wanting sex is not the same as consenting to sex. The most recent SES asked about experiences "without my consent"; however, definitions of consent vary widely and are often vague. In this revision, the Revision Team chose new language and examples to communicate the nonconsensual nature of the sexual acts on the SES. One complication with defining non-consent is that sometimes victims may agree to sex but only after experiencing coercion. Guided by recent research, the Revision Team substantially revised the SES coercion items to clarify the definition of coercion, to ensure that each item measured a different type of coercion, and to reflect the range of coercion included in existing taxonomies. Significance to the Field: We anticipate that the revised conceptualization of consent and the expanded sexual coercion items will ensure that the revised SES is even more precise and useful going forward. Abstract 4: Expanding the Sexual Experiences Survey to include Cyber Victimization and Perpetration Martie Thompson, Robin Kowalski, and Christopher Allen Background: The Sexual Experiences Survey is the most widely used measure of sexual assault victimization and perpetration among college students. The measure was first developed in the 1980s and underwent a revision in 2007. Now, 15 years later, the SES Collaboration Revision Team is revising the SES again to improve its comprehensiveness and inclusiveness. One type of sexual assault that was not assessed in the 2007 SES version is cyber victimization and perpetration. This presentation will focus on the development



of this module for inclusion in the SES 2022. Theoretical Perspective: Given the increase in digital technology and social media usage particularly among younger people, sexual victimization and perpetration via these modalities have also increased. Consequently, researchers have called for more research on how in-person and cyber victimization and aggression are related. Testing this empirical question is contingent on having adequate measurement of both in-person and cyber experiences. Thus, researchers also have called for more comprehensive measures of victimization and perpetration that include multiple items assessing for both in-person and cyber modalities, as well as specific types of behaviors across these modalities. Significance to the Field: The expansion of the SES to include cyber victimization and perpetration will allow for more comprehensive assessment of sexual experiences that occurred without freely given permission. The new measure will allow for determining the co-occurrence of in-person and cyber victimization and perpetration, as well as if there are different risk factors and consequences of these types of sexual violence. Widespread adoption of the SES 2022 with the addition of cyber victimization and perpetration has the potential to enhance our understanding of sexual violence. It will provide a consistent way to assess for sexual violence and will allow for comparisons across different types of samples and time periods and enable aggregation of findings across studies.

#### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

To describe the history of the Sexual Experiences Survey (SES) and the collaborative approach to revising the SES.

To identify some of the primary revisions to the new SES and the implications of those for the measurement of sexual victimization

To review some of the relevant literature that guided the revision of the SES.