

TCU HVHPForm – HIV and Hepatitis-C Risks

Scales and Item Scoring Guide

The HVHPForm collects information about *30-day pre-admission behaviors and attitudes* relating to *HIV/AIDS and hepatitis risks*. It includes subscales that focus on (1) risky drug injection behaviors and exposure situations, (2) risky sex behaviors and exposure situations, (3) cognitive attitudes and resistance to condom use for safer sex, and (4) level of concern about getting the AIDS virus and related infectious diseases. These particular subscales are designed to identify clients at comparatively high risk in specific behavioral and cognitive areas and thereby in need of targeted interventions for change.

Specific types of drugs used are not addressed, so a useful complementary TCU Core Form is the Drug Screen (TCUDS II) assessment which records type of drugs used and severity. For some applications, information about health problems accessible from the HLTHForm might also be a useful complement to the HVHPForm.

Scoring Instructions for obtaining scale scores:

1. Sum the response values of all non-missing items for the scale,
2. Divide the sum of item responses by the number of items included (yielding an average),
3. Multiply this average by 10 (in order to *rescale* the score so it ranges from 10 to 50) (e.g., an average response of “2.6” for a scale therefore becomes a score of “26”).

Items for Injection Risk Scale:

...how many TIMES did you – (*responses 1 = none to 5 = over 30*)

1. INJECT drugs with a NEEDLE?
2. use “DIRTY NEEDLES or COOKING WORKS (needles, syringes, cooker, cotton, or rinse water that someone else used and were not cleaned with bleach)?
3. use the same COOKER, COTTON, or RINSE WATER that someone else had already used?
5. have SEX with someone who had INJECTED drugs and did NOT use a latex condom?

...how many different PEOPLE – (*responses 1 = none to 5 = over 30*)

8. did you share “DIRTY” NEEDLES or COOKING WORKS with?

Injection Risk scale scores range from 10-50 with higher scores = higher risks ($\alpha = 0.89$).

Items for Sex Risk Scale:

...how many TIMES did you – (*responses 1 = none to 5 = over 30*)

4. have SEX (vaginal, oral, or anal) and did NOT use a latex condom?
6. have SEX with anyone who TRADED SEX for money, drugs, or gifts and did NOT use a latex condom?

...how many different PEOPLE – (*responses 1 = none to 5 = over 30*)

9. did you have SEX with (including vaginal, oral, or anal)?
11. did you have sex with while you were high on drugs?

Sex Risk scale scores range from 10-50 with higher scores = higher risks ($\alpha = 0.75$).

Items for Condom Attitudes Scale:

...how much you AGREE or DISAGREE (*response 1=strongly agree to 5=strongly disagree*)

13. You don't like to use a condom on either yourself or on your sex partner?
15. Condoms interrupt the mood when having sex?
17. You usually forget about using a condom when having sex?
19. It feels unnatural to use a condom when having sex?

Condom Attitudes scale scores range from 10-50 with higher scores = higher resistance ($\alpha = 0.81$).

Items for AIDS Concern Scale:

...how much you AGREE or DISAGREE (*response 1=strongly agree to 5=strongly disagree*)

12. You have concerns about your possible exposure to the AIDS virus or hepatitis?
14. It is possible that you could get AIDS or hepatitis?
16. There are things you want to change to help avoid getting AIDS or hepatitis?
18. You have concerns that you could give AIDS or hepatitis to someone else?

AIDS Concern scale scores range from 10-50 with higher scores = higher concern ($\alpha = 0.94$).

Sources:

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Institute of Behavioral Research
Texas Christian University
TCU Box 298740, Fort Worth, TX 76129
(817) 257-7226 [FAX (817) 257-7290]
Email: ibr@tcu.edu ; Web site: www.ibr.tcu.edu