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Unwanted sexual experiences: A preliminary report of the psychometric properties of the revised, expanded, and gender-neutral Sexual Experiences Survey for assessing perpetration

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This presentation summarizes the first of a series of preliminary reports on the psychometric properties of revised versions Sexual Experiences Survey [SES] (Koss & Gidycz, 1985; Koss, Gidycz & Wisniewski, 1987). Long and short forms were developed to assess perpetration and victimization using a gender-neutral approach (Koss & the SES Collaboration*, 2004). Thus, both perpetration and/or victimization surveys may be administered to men or women depending on study design and objectives. All versions have updated language and the long forms assess a wider range of unwanted sexual acts and a greater variety of coercive and aggressive strategies. The present sample was college students (N = 138), tested twice in groups. The SES-LFP and the Rape Myths Scale Short Form (Burt, 1980) were administered. Data analyses included internal consistency, convergent validity, gender comparisons of lifetime perpetration prevalence, and exploratory factor analysis. Men reported perpetrating far more types and severity of aggression including acts that met legal definitions of misdemeanor and felony sex crimes. Internal consistency was good ($\alpha = .84$). As hypothesized, moderate convergence with rape myth acceptance was found for men ($\alpha=0.25$) and not for women ($\alpha=0.05$). Exploratory factor analysis suggested five factors for male respondents including Sexual Coercion, Harassment by Pornography, Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault, Same Sex Sexual Assault, and Escalated Sexual Assault. Women's responses formed a single factor, Female Sexual Aggression.

Because the SES-LFP was developed for epidemiology, criminal justice, and psychotherapeutic treatment applications, three different scoring rubrics were developed and tested for fit to the data including (1) Original SES Categorical Metric, (2) Legal Definitions Metric, and (3) Strategy of Offense Metric. The latter showed the highest goodness-of-fit. Although these psychometric data on the SES-LFP are promising, they should be interpreted cautiously because they are based on a small sample at one site.