

The Partner Violence Stigma Scale (PVSS) is a measure of negative attitudes held toward targets of partner violence. The measure employs a 7-point Likert-type scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 7 (strongly agree). The eight items assess three important aspects of social stigma: stereotyping (linking victimization to negative attributes), attribution assumptions (attaching blame to the individual's condition), and social avoidance (see Link, Yan, Phelan, & Collins, 2004). They are loosely based on existing measures for other stigmatizing conditions, such as contracting HIV/AIDS (e.g., Kalichman et al., 2005). Items were developed to measure participants' beliefs about negative qualities of people experiencing partner violence (e.g., victims are unattractive, liars, weak) as well as a dimension of shamefulness and blame toward victims (e.g., should be ashamed of themselves, they deserve what they get, they provoke the behavior). An avoidance and social sanction dimension of stigma against victims of partner violence (i.e., avoiding friendship with a victim of partner violence) was also used. Each of the stigma items contributed to a single factor with item loadings ranging between .56 and .77. The items contributed 45.12% toward the explained variance and were internally consistent at $\alpha = .82$.

Cite:

Arnocky, S., & Vaillancourt, T. (2014). Sex differences in response to victimization by an intimate partner: More stigmatization and less help-seeking among males. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment, & Trauma*, 23(7), 705–724. doi: 10.1080/10926771.2014.933465

Instructions: Please rate your agreement with each statement using the scale below. There are no right or wrong answers and your responses are anonymous. This scale applies to heterosexual (man + woman) relationships. In this scale, the term “abuse” refers to being exposed to some level of physical, psychological, or sexual aggression by one’s romantic partner.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
O	O	O	O	O	O	O
I strongly disagree						I strongly agree

1. _____ Men (Women) who are abused by their romantic partners should be ashamed of themselves.
2. _____ Men (Women) who are abused by their romantic partners are weak.
3. _____ Men (Women) who stay with abusive partners deserve what they get.
4. _____ Men (Women) who are abused by their romantic partners probably cannot attract anyone better.
5. _____ Men (Women) who are abused by their romantic partners are not men (women) I want to be friends with.
6. _____ Many men (women) who say they are abused by their romantic partners are probably lying or exaggerating.
7. _____ When a woman (man) hits her (his) partner, it is most likely in self-defense.
8. _____ When a woman (man) hits her (his) partner, it was most likely provoked.