

Psychometric Properties of a New Scale to Assess Family Violence in Older African American Women: The Family Violence Against Older Women (FVOW) Scale

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Abstract

Absence of a conceptually grounded, comprehensive measure for family violence in older women has hindered attempts to define the extent of the problem and its effects on older women's health. This article reports the development and psychometrics of the Family Violence in Older African American Women Scale, a comprehensive scale to measure family violence in older women. The scale demonstrates two distinct factors: (a) "Abuse" and (b) "Caregiving Failure," which measure abusive behaviors in the context of a family relationship and caring for older women, respectively. Implications for the use of this scale in research and practice settings are discussed.

Keywords

family violence, scale

In the field of family violence (FV), appropriate assessment of FV is essential to researchers, policy makers, and practitioners. To date, little work has been done with respect to developing assessment tools for measuring FV in older individuals. This is in contrast to intimate partner violence (IPV), where the pioneering work of Straus and colleagues and the development of the Conflict Tactics Scales 1 and 2 (Straus, 1979; Straus, Hamby, Boney-McCoy, & Sugarman, 1995) led the way for several scales that tap various

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