

Parenting Norms and Stigma Scale

Adoption Norms and Stigma Scale

Abortion Norms and Stigma Scale

The Parenting, Adoption, and Abortion Norms and Stigma Scales are three distinct, multidimensional, and psychometrically valid measures of norms and stigma around potential pregnancy decisions in the context of unintended pregnancy among young women.

Item Development

An exploratory sequential mixed methods study design was used to develop items. First, six initial focus groups with young women were conducted to gain an understanding of the constructs¹, and to inform an initial item pool. The items were revised based upon twelve cognitive interviews to assess understanding, and consult with reproductive health experts from around the country to assess face validity.

Scale Validation

Ninety-seven survey items were administered via iPads to 642 young adult women who were not pregnant at the time of the study. Participants were English-speaking, were aged 18-24, and were recruited from a university campus (approximately 70%) and a health department site. Both women who reported a previous unintended pregnancy and those who did not were included in the sample.

Parenting Norms and Stigma Scale

20 items

Parallel analysis generated four factors with high internal reliability: conditions upon which it is socially acceptable for a young woman to elect to parent ($\alpha = .72$), anticipated reactions by close others to the decision to parent ($\alpha = .89$), and stereotypes ($\alpha = .72$) and attitudes ($\alpha = .74$) about a young woman who makes the decision to parent. The overall scale also has high internal reliability ($\alpha = .73$).

Adoption Norms and Stigma Scale

19 items

Parallel analysis revealed four factors with high internal reliability: accepted conditions upon which a young woman can choose adoption ($\alpha = .76$), anticipated reactions by close others to the decision to place their child for adoption ($\alpha = .87$), and stereotypes ($\alpha = .78$) and attitudes ($\alpha = .88$) about a young woman who makes the decision to adopt. In addition, the overall adoption scale has high internal reliability ($\alpha = .73$).

Citation for paper: Rice WS, Turan B, Stringer KL, Helova A, White K, Cockrill K, Turan JM. (2017). Norms and stigma regarding pregnancy decisions during an unintended pregnancy: Development and predictors of scales among young women in the U.S. South. *PLoS ONE* 12(3): e0174210. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0174210>

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Abortion Norms and Stigma Scale

21 items

With a high internal reliability for the overall scale ($\alpha = .94$), analysis of abortion items generated four factors, including conditions upon which it is acceptable for a young woman to have an abortion ($\alpha = .94$), anticipated reactions by close others to the decision to have an abortion ($\alpha = .88$), misperceptions about the medical risk of abortion ($\alpha = .81$), and attitudes about a young woman who makes the decision to have an abortion ($\alpha = .90$).

Construct Validity

Construct validity of the three scales was assessed by exploring correlations between each scale and how likely participants perceived that they would be to make each decision following an unintended pregnancy. Women who scored higher on a stigma scale surrounding a certain pregnancy decision indicated less perceived likelihood that they would choose that option if faced with an unintended pregnancy, providing support for the construct validity of these scales.

Scoring

Higher scores on each of these scales signify increased stigma and negative attitudes around the pregnancy decision at hand. Items with negative factor loading and items with positively worded items were reverse-coded (indicated with an *) because they are inversely related to the other items on the scales.

Scores for each scale and subscale can be calculated by adding scores from each item and dividing by the number of items in the scale or subscale. These scores are recommended to be used as continuous variables, since cut off points or categorizations of scores have not been established.

Applications

These scales can be applied in a variety of contexts. They can be used in research examining the role of reproductive stigma in pregnancy decision-making and may also be used in the evaluation of programs and interventions that aim to reduce stigma associated with unintended pregnancy. More specifically, the scales and subscales may be used to assess programs hoping to reduce stigma around parenting, adoption, and abortion decisions. We invite researchers to retest these scales in various regions and settings.

¹ Smith W, Turan JM, White K, Stringer KL, Helova A, Simpson T, Cockrill K. (2016). Social Norms and Stigma Regarding Unintended Pregnancy and Pregnancy Decisions: A Qualitative Study of Young Women in Alabama. *Perspect Sex Reprod Health*, 48(2), 73–81. Epub 11 May 2016. PMID:27166869

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Parenting Norms and Stigma Scale

Conditional Acceptability Subscale: If a woman is going to keep the baby, she should:

Items	Answer options				
* Item is reverse coded	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Be in a committed relationship *	1	2	3	4	5
2. Have family support *	1	2	3	4	5
3. Have a job *	1	2	3	4	5
4. Have a stable place to live *	1	2	3	4	5
5. Have at least a high school degree *	1	2	3	4	5

Anticipated Reactions Subscale: If you became pregnant accidentally and decided to keep the baby, how likely is it that the people who matter most to you would feel the following ways:

Items	Answer options				
* Item is reverse coded	Extremely Unlikely	Unlikely	Neutral	Likely	Extremely Likely
6. Would be disappointed	1	2	3	4	5
7. Would be happy*	1	2	3	4	5
8. Would be mad	1	2	3	4	5
9. Would understand*	1	2	3	4	5
10. Would be supportive*	1	2	3	4	5
11. Would be ashamed	1	2	3	4	5

Stereotypes Subscale: Women my age who keep the baby after becoming pregnant accidentally:

Items	Answer options				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
12. Are usually low income	1	2	3	4	5
13. Usually are trying to keep their man	1	2	3	4	5
14. Usually are not well educated	1	2	3	4	5
15. Usually end up on welfare	1	2	3	4	5

Attitudes Subscale

Items	Answer options				
* Item is reverse coded	Not at all	A little bit	Somewhat	Quite	Extremely
16. In your opinion, how irresponsible is a woman your age who has the baby and raises it herself?	1	2	3	4	5
17. In your opinion, how mature is a woman your age who has the baby and raises it herself? *	1	2	3	4	5
18. In your opinion, how selfish is a woman your age who has the baby and raises it herself?	1	2	3	4	5
19. In your opinion, how strong is a woman your age who has the baby and raises it herself? *	1	2	3	4	5
20. In your opinion, how cold/heartless is a woman your age who has the baby and raises it herself?	1	2	3	4	5

Adoption Norms and Stigma Scale

Conditional Acceptability Subscale

Items	Answer options				
* Item is reverse coded	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. If your family will not support you in having a baby, it's okay to place your child for adoption. *	1	2	3	4	5
2. If the man involved in the pregnancy will not support you in having a baby, it's okay to place your child for adoption. *	1	2	3	4	5

Anticipated Reactions Subscale: If I got pregnant accidentally and decided to place the baby for adoption, the people who matter most to me:

Items	Answer options				
* Item is reverse coded	Extremely Unlikely	Unlikely	Neutral	Likely	Extremely Likely
3. Would be disappointed	1	2	3	4	5
4. Would be happy*	1	2	3	4	5
5. Would be mad	1	2	3	4	5
6. Would be surprised	1	2	3	4	5
7. Would understand*	1	2	3	4	5
8. Would be supportive*	1	2	3	4	5
9. Would feel ashamed	1	2	3	4	5

Stereotypes Subscale: Women my age who decide to place the baby for adoption after becoming pregnant accidentally:

Items	Answer options				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
10. Are usually low income	1	2	3	4	5
11. Usually are not in a committed relationship	1	2	3	4	5
12. Usually do not have family support to raise the child	1	2	3	4	5
13. Usually are not ready to be mothers	1	2	3	4	5

Attitudes Subscale

Item	Answer options				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
14. Women who place a baby for adoption regret it later.	1	2	3	4	5

Items	Answer options				
* Item is reverse coded	Not at all	A little bit	Somewhat	Quite	Extremely
15. In your opinion, how irresponsible is a woman your age who places her baby for adoption?	1	2	3	4	5
16. In your opinion, how mature is a woman your age who places her baby for adoption? *	1	2	3	4	5
17. In your opinion, how selfish is a woman your age who places her baby for adoption?	1	2	3	4	5
18. In your opinion, how strong is a woman your age who places her baby for adoption? *	1	2	3	4	5
19. In your opinion, how cold/heartless is a woman your age who places her baby for adoption?	1	2	3	4	5

Abortion Norms and Stigma Scale

Conditional Acceptability Subscale

Items	Answer options				
* Item is reverse coded	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Abortion is acceptable if the woman cannot take care of her child. *	1	2	3	4	5
2. Abortion is acceptable if the woman does not have family support. *	1	2	3	4	5
3. If the man involved in the pregnancy will not support you in having a baby, it's okay to have an abortion. *	1	2	3	4	5
4. If your life is really messed up, it's better to have an abortion than to keep the baby. *	1	2	3	4	5

Anticipated Reactions Subscale: If I got pregnant accidentally and decided to have an abortion, the people who matter most to me:

Items	Answer options				
* Item is reverse coded	Extremely Unlikely	Unlikely	Neutral	Likely	Extremely Likely
5. Would be disappointed	1	2	3	4	5
6. Would be happy*	1	2	3	4	5
7. Would be mad	1	2	3	4	5
8. Would be surprised	1	2	3	4	5
9. Would understand*	1	2	3	4	5
10. Would be supportive*	1	2	3	4	5
11. Would feel ashamed	1	2	3	4	5

Misperceptions Subscale

Items	Answer options				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
12. Abortion is risky for women's health.	1	2	3	4	5
13. Women who have multiple abortions may not be able to have a child later in life.	1	2	3	4	5

Attitudes Subscale

Items	Answer options				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
* Item is reverse coded					
14. Abortion is acceptable in any situation. *	1	2	3	4	5
15. Women who have abortions are killing their own children.	1	2	3	4	5
16. Abortion should be the woman's decision. *	1	2	3	4	5

Items	Answer options				
	Not at all	A little bit	Somewhat	Quite	Extremely
* Item is reverse coded					
17. In your opinion, how irresponsible is a woman your age who has an abortion?	1	2	3	4	5
18. In your opinion, how mature is a woman your age who has an abortion? *	1	2	3	4	5
19. In your opinion, how selfish is a woman your age who has an abortion?	1	2	3	4	5
20. In your opinion, how strong is a woman your age who has an abortion? *	1	2	3	4	5
21. In your opinion, how cold/heartless is a woman your age who has an abortion?	1	2	3	4	5