

DEVELOPMENT AND PSYCHOMETRIC TESTING OF THE SAFER SEX BEHAVIOR FOR THAI WOMEN (SSBTW) INSTRUMENT

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The objectives of this study were to develop and test the psychometric properties of the Safer Sex Behavior for Thai Women (SSBTW) Instrument. This study is a mixed method sequential explanatory design.

A qualitative study was performed by in-depth interviews of 14 women with higher and 6 women with lower-risk sexual behaviors. The results of content analysis revealed five domains of safer sex behaviors for Thai women including: avoiding sexual intercourse (13 items); asking partner about sexual history (9 items); using a condom when having sex with someone else other than the partner (13 items); reducing risk behavior of STIs (15 items), and negotiating with partners for safe sex (10 items). The SSBTW Instrument was examined for content validity by seven experts. Out of 70 items, 53 items remained and obtained an I-CVI of 0.86-1 and S-CVI of 0.88.

A quantitative study was conducted using exploratory factor analysis (EFA) and confirmatory factor analysis (CFA). The sample were 273 and 354 Thai women, respectively. The results showed that safer sex behavior for Thai women was composed of nine factors, namely: asking partner about their sexual history, reducing sexual risk behaviors, using a condom, avoiding sexual intercourse, avoiding alcohol drinking and drug use, negotiating with partners for condom use, avoiding having sex with a partner who has STIs, protecting when a partner has STIs, and avoiding sex with a partner who has multiple – partners. Indicators had a range of communality from .487 to .825. Nine factors accounted for 65.57 % of the variance. The factor loadings of 53 items were between .300 and .837. Assumptions of multicollinearity were assessed before CFA, one item was dropped because it may cause multicollinearity. The remaining 52 items were analyzed by confirmatory factor analysis (CFA). The measurement model of the SSBTW fitted to the empirical data ($p < .05$), but Factor 1 “asking partner about their sexual history” had negative standardized loadings with hypothesized model, thus it was deleted. All standardized loading of 8 the remaining subscales were statistically significant ($p < .05$). The overall reliability was .892. Finally, the SSBTW Instrument retained 8 subscales (42 items) that had construct validity. However, semantic wordings of some items need to be improved, and more items should be added to enhance the construct validity. Further studies testing other psychometric properties in different groups of Thai women are needed.

**KEY WORDS: SAFER SEX / INSTRUMENT DEVELOPMENT /
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